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Wednesday January 24 1996

Abu Dhabi	D 8.50
Albania	L 220
Andorra	FF 10
Austria	AS 28
Bahrain	BD 0.80
Belgium	BF 60
Bulgaria	L 170
Croatia	KN 12.50
Cyprus	C£ 1.00
Czech Republic	KC45
Denmark	DK 15
Dubai	D 8.50
Egypt	E£ 5
Estonia	K 30
Finland	FM 11
France	FF 10
Germany	DM 3.50
Greece	D 350
Hong Kong	HK$ 25
Hungary	F 200
Iceland	IK 185
India	Rs 55
Israel	NIS 8.90
Italy	L 3,000
Jordan	JD 1 00
Kuwait	KD 0.50
Latvia	US$ 2
Lebanon	US$ 1.50
Lithuania	US$ 2
Luxembourg	LF 55
Madeira	E 260
Malta	ML 0.43
Morocco	D 15
Netherlands	G 3.75
Norway	NK 15
Oman	OR 1.00
Pakistan	R 70
Poland	Z 5 70
Portugal	E 230
Qatar	QR 8.50
Russia	US$ 2.00
Saudi Arabia	R 10
Slovakia	SK 55
Slovenia	SLT 260
Spain	P 225
Sweden	SK 16
Switzerland	SF 3
Thailand	B 80
Tunisia	TD 1,750
Turkey	TL 100,000
Ukraine	US$ 2 00
USA	US$ 2.75

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46,457

The extraordinary story of "Copperfingers"

The £15 million a year man

Guardian 2 with European weather

Society

Driven to distraction

Our obsession with roads

G2 pages 12/13

Parents

Jealous of your children's nanny?

G2 pages 6/7

Harriet Harman: why I made my choice and why I will not resign

Exclusive interview: beleaguered shadow minister defends action

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

HARRIET Harman today launches a 24 hour campaign to save her political career with an interview in the Guardian asserting she will not allow her son to be used as a political pawn.

Ms Harman was speaking *following a storm of criticism* over her decision to send her 11-year-old son to a grammar school, St Olave's, in Orpington, Kent. *The issue* dominated Westminster for the second day in succession.

She recognises her decision has created controversy within the party, but insists *she made it as a parent, in the* best interests of her child, confronted by the education system as it exists.

She said: "Nothing I have done leaves me out of line *with Labour education* policy. Nor should it be seen as a stalking horse for a policy change by Labour. I totally support what our education secretary, David Blunkett, is doing. He is patently committed to improving educational standards for everyone. He *like me believes* that an education system which creams off 25 per cent of children and writes off 75 per cent is not the way to provide educational excellence.

"*I also support him in say*ing in relation to the grammar schools, that there will not be a change of admissions policy without the consent of the parents and prospective parents in a ballot. I do not want an extension of grammar schools. I am opposed to returning to the 11 plus."

Ms Harman added: "Knowing our child, knowing his needs, knowing the local schools, we sat down and made the right choice for him. *That is what parents do.* It is the iron law of parenting."

She also pointed out that half the children in Southwark, where she lives, were *sent to schools outside the* borough, and argued every child in the borough had had an equal chance to gain a place at St Olave's.

Her defence comes amid mounting reports of a rift between the Labour deputy leader John Prescott and Tony Blair.

Ms Harman hopes her defence, followed by a personal explanation today at an angry Parliamentary Labour Party meeting, will save *her* from resignation.

In a make or break day, she also faces a Tory onslaught when she leads for Labour in this afternoon's Commons health debate, and severe criticism *from the shadow* cabinet at its weekly evening session.

Some Labour MPs have been threatening to boycott the health debate in protest at Ms Harman and two more leftwing backbenchers openly called for her resignation. Others, including some leftwing women MPs, have written to Ms Harman privately urging her to stand down.

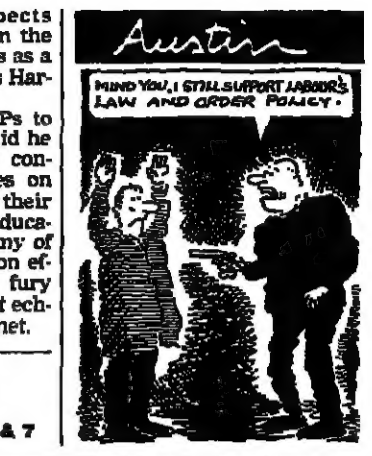
Mr Prescott, who sat stony faced in Question Time, was overheard by Tory MPs promising an angry backbencher to raise the issue at tonight's shadow cabinet meeting. He called this mischief making and issued a terse statement: "Tony Blair *as leader of the* Labour Party has made clear what the position is. I have nothing to add."

The former deputy Labour leader, Roy Hattersley, described it as "the worst week for Labour since Tony Blair was elected."

But Mr Blair let it be known that he expects Labour to close ranks in the face of what he describes as a "squalid hounding of Ms Harman".

Calling on Labour MPs to show their mettle, he said he will "not have Labour concede one inch to Tories on this issue in the face of their record of destroying education standards in so many of our schools". His decision effectively silenced the fury simmering in the highest echelons of the shadow cabinet.

Sketch, page 2; Leader comment, page 8; Why I won't resign, page 9; A select feud, G2 pages 6 & 7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Forte falls to Granada

£3.9bn end for hotels dynasty

Ian King

THE City's most gripping takeover battle this decade came to a climax yesterday when Forte, the 60-year-old family-run international hotels dynasty, succumbed to a *£3.9 billion hostile bid* from Granada, the television-to-motorway services group.

Forte, set up by Italian immigrant Charles Forte, later *Lord Forte,* from a Regent Street milk bar in 1935, surrendered after Granada claimed support from 67 per cent of Forte's shareholders.

The bid created a £155 million fees bonanza for the City's financial advisers in a return to 1980s-style takeovers, provoking criticism from the Labour Party, which opposes the tax benefits offered *to institutional share*holders in Granada. Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, said Labour would seek to remove such tax breaks in the debate on the Finance Bill.

Victory was sealed for Granada when Mercury Asset Management, Forte's biggest single shareholder with a 14.4 per cent stake worth £562 million, pledged to support the bid yesterday morning.

Sir Rocco Forte, chief executive and heir to the empire, immediately knew the battle for survival was over. Last night he hosted a party at the Cafe Royal for supporters and senior staff, who helped fight the bid. He expressed regret that headquarters staff would *lose their jobs.*

The takeover means some of Britain's top hotels, including the Waldorf and the Grosvenor House in central London, are likely to come under *the auctioneer's hammer.* Granada, known for its rental stores, motorway service stations and television shows such as Coronation Street, has pledged to sell Forte's top-of-the-range hotels.

Granada chief executive Gerry Robinson in cheerful mood at his office in London yesterday after the success of the bid for Forte PHOTOGRAPH: NIGEL BARKLIE

It is likely to spell the end of the road for Prime Minister John Major's favoured eating establishment Happy Eater, likely to be absorbed into the Little Chef brand.

Also under threat is the Savoy, Britain's most famous luxury hotel chain, in which Forte held a 68 per cent stake. *Granada has said it has no in*terest in the stake, but under takeover rules it cannot sell it on for seven months.

Above all though, it is the end of one of Britain's most famous family-run businesses, which owns a glittering array of international hotels, along with other prestigious assets.

Last night, however, Sir Rocco promised that the City had not seen the last of him.

He said: "Naturally we are all disappointed that this has happened, but you have to press on. I have plenty of options, and I will be back."

Speculation was growing that Sir Rocco, whose family's stake in Forte was valued at just under £300 million, may approach Granada with a view to buying the French-based international hotel chain Meridien, which lay at the heart of the old Forte business. However, he may be challenged by rival French hotelier Accor, which he outbid to buy Meridien in 1994.

The takeover will mean up to 1,000 job losses, including around 335 at Forte's head office at London's Holborn. But Granada's triumphant chief executive, Gerry Robinson, insisted his company's victory was "good news for British jobs". He said: "This is not a break-up — we are about creating jobs. The number of jobs we have created over the last few years is phenomenal."

Granada's victory brings to an end one of the most viciously-fought takeover battles the City has seen in recent years. The bid for Forte, first reported in The Guardian, took the Square Mile by surprise on November 22. Forte had been criticised in recent years for its lacklustre performance, but many City experts have been impressed by the strength of Sir Rocco's fightback.

Whitbread, the brewing and leisure giant which had agreed to buy Happy Eater, Little Chef and the Welcome Break motorway services chain from Forte in the event of Granada's bid failing, may now seek to buy Welcome Break from Granada.

Sir Rocco plans comeback, and Notebook, page 11

Ulster report blow to Major

David Sharrock, Michael White and Owen Bowcott

THE Government will today face pressure to drop its insistence on an IRA arms hand-over before Sinn Fein joins all-party talks on Northern Ireland's future when the international body on paramilitary weapons reports that the demand is impractical.

Irish government sources last night welcomed the findings of President Clinton's special envoy, George Mitchell, which they praised for seeking no preconditions to political negotiations — a key Sinn Fein demand.

The sting in the tail for Sinn Fein, however, is a carefully worded suggestion that some disarmament could start as the talks progress, as well as a stronger commitment to the principle of consent. Sinn Fein has to date insisted that weapons disposal will only happen once a settlement has been agreed.

In bottom-line terms, this means that republicans will have to permanently renounce violence as a means of achieving British withdrawal. This goes far beyond the terms of the 17-month-old IRA ceasefire, which was called to "enhance the democratic process." Neither the organisation nor its political wing has ever stated that the military campaign is over for good.

It is understood that the commission will, in diplomatic language, ask Sinn Fein and loyalist groups either to agree to accept the outcome of all-party talks, or if they cannot do that, to oppose it by democratic methods alone.

The Cabinet's Northern Ireland committeee discussed the subject last night.

Government sources in Northern Ireland were sanguine about Mr Mitchell's recommendations. "It looks as if there are rather more questions and challenges in it for the other lot than for us," said one source, pointing to the report's comments on the need for a commitment to exclusively democratic methods.

But the Ulster Unionist deputy leader, John Taylor, reacted angrily to reports of the document's contents. "We will *not enter into* talks with IRA/Sinn Fein unless they start decommissioning their firearms. It seems to me that Mitchell, if we believe the Irish leaks, has fudged the issue of decommissioning, has played into the hands of IRA/Sinn Fein, and therefore the only alternative way forward now would be an elected body," he said.

It is understood that Mr

turn to page 3, column 3

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Marriage of girl, 13, to Turkish waiter appears to be doomed as he faces rape charge

Musa Komeagac with his bride Sarah Cook yesterday

Chris Nuttall in Ankara Alan Watkins and Sally Weale

THE marriage of 13-year-old Sarah Cook, from Essex, to an unemployed Turkish waiter appeared doomed last night, following the arrest of her husband who faces up to five years in prison.

Musa Komeagac, who married Sarah in a *Muslim* ceremony in Turkey two weeks ago, was due to appear before a court today where he will be formally charged under rape laws.

Mr Komeagac, aged 18, was arrested yesterday in the town of Kahramanmaras, in south-eastern Turkey. He was held in custody overnight.

The couple, whose wedding was attended by Sarah's parents, met last June while the Cook family were on holiday. The pair yesterday made statements to the state prosecutor after the Turkish authorities intervened.

As Sarah arrived at the police station, wearing a traditional Muslim headscarf, she said: "I used to think I was an ugly girl when I was *in Britain. Now I feel* I'm beautiful because I'm being loved."

Mr Komeagac's lawyer, Selim Surman, is to appeal to a higher court for his client's release. *"Sarah has said she* will love Musa until death. There is no force used in this relationship."

A rape conviction would mean at least five years in *jail. Mr Komeagac could face* the lesser charge of having sex with a minor.

It is illegal to get married before the age of 16 in Turkey, although marriages of girls *aged 12 or 13 are still* common in rural areas. It is also illegal to have a Muslim wedding ceremony without a civil ceremony being held first.

Sarah's parents, Jackie and *Adrian Cook,* from Braintree, Essex, insisted she had found far greater happiness than if she had stayed in Britain, during an hour-long meeting with senior social services officers at Braintree. Last night they were preparing to fly to Turkey to ask the authorities to let the couple stay together.

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Sketch

Vanishing lady in the line of fire

Simon Hoggart

"LET me just say this to Conservative members," said Tony Blair gravely. "If they think that, after the damage they have done to this country, they are going to ride to popularity on the back of a decision made for an 11-year-old boy, they credit the British people with too little sense."

I'm sure he's right. Harriet Harman's choice for her son's schooling won't restore the Government's own popularity, but by golly it's done wonders for Tory morale. Labour must have hoped that the story would die down — and one day, possibly before the Millennium, so it will.

In the meantime, New Labour is facing a public relations meltdown, far worse than anything since the 1992 election.

Yesterday, the party's image-makers were fighting into the crowds clustered round the disaster ("Let me through, I'm a spin doctor").

They invited us to admire both Mr Blair and Ms Harman for their toughness, and their refusal to back down. But it was like a man being sucked into a tar pit requesting our applause for his gutsy decision to go swimming there.

Once again, Ms Harman did not turn up in the Chamber. This is beginning to look like lack of moral fibre. In the first world war she would have been court-martialled, then executed. (Though I fear that in this case the firing squad would have asked for live ammunition, so they could all boast they had fired the fatal shot.)

She must appear today for the debate on health, and she had better be good. She needs to come out fighting and not whingeing.

Given that the backbench Tories (not the men in suits, rather the lads in polyester tie 'n 'hank sets) are certain to be nasty, brutish and long-winded, a combative response could still recover her position.

Yesterday John Major was more effective than he has been for ages. He left after Prime Minister's Questions with the unfamiliar noise of cheering in his ears. Partly, I think, it's because as a state school boy he is genuinely angered by this do-as-I-say-not-as-I-do behaviour, and he always sounds better when he means what he's saying.

The former Education Secretary, Kenneth Baker, began the persecution. Parents who sent their children to grant maintained and grammar schools should be welcomed as "stakeholders", he said. "But isn't it morally indefensible for such parents to grab privileges for their own children while denying it to other children?"

John Major couldn't fluff that one. "The events of the last few days do prove that, as they say, the Labour Party has changed. Yesterday's Labour Party said they would abolish GM schools the day after tomorrow. Today's Labour Party say they will abolish them — once their children have finished their education."

He had a punchy script and was determined to plough through every word of it. He said the Labour leader was obliged to support Ms Harman.

"He must back her. He can't sack her, because she is only playing follow my leader", he said, to a tsunami of Tory cheers and applause.

Mr Blair tried to change the subject and failed. Mr Major continued: "I just want to be tough on hypocrisy and tough on the causes of hypocrisy." Tory MPs bayed and yelled and jeered and some even shrieked with pleasure.

The Labour front bench scowled crossly, all except for Derek Foster, who grinned like Charles Addams's Uncle Fester at the weepie film. He risks being shot, too.

Mr Blair replied to some remark or other from the PM: "I thank him for his kind words about being under pressure. The difference between me and him is that I will not buckle under it."

Why do I suspect that these words might return one day to haunt him?

First night

Meat and potato with little relish

Adam Sweeting

Joan Osborne
Borderline, London

LAST year was a remarkable one in the American record industry for the number of women artists either making spectacular arrivals in the charts, or consolidating their existing success. The list wasn't quite endless, but it was pretty long — Alanis Morrissette, Mariah Carey, Alison Krauss, Reba McEntire, Shania Twain, Janet Jackson . . . Most of them crop up in the nominations for the Grammy awards next month.

Well to the fore is Joan Osborne with five nominations. Osborne is the latest feisty female rocker to explode over the US charts, thanks to her latest album, Relish, already a million-seller.

In classic American fashion, Osborne's success has been built on two years of solid touring, which in turn helped propel her single, One Of Us, into the top 10. It has been getting airplay over here lately too. A chunky, moody rock ballad written by Eric Bazilian of The Hooters, it has a folksy world-weariness and vague intimations of spirituality that could be just the job for crossing over into the burgeoning Christian rock crowd in the States, with its lyric: "What if God was one of us, just a slob like one of us, just a stranger on the bus trying to make his way home . . ."

The allure of Relish lies in its mix of a boomy, homespun rock sound packed with thrumming bass and piano, over which Osborne deploys her gritty, bluesy bellow. She sounds like Bonnie Raitt whipped up with a hint of Melissa Etheridge, for extra commercial mileage. Her music is a little bit funky, a little bit rock'n'roll, and there are a few white-trash yodels for good measure, harking back to her background in Anchorage, Kentucky.

With all that gruelling roadwork under her belt, you would expect Osborne to look more at home on stage than she does sitting on her own living room couch, and she picked off this small-scale showcase event without breaking any noticeable sweat.

Still, one was left reflecting on the great divide between American and British musical taste. The Americans tend to despise British groups for their lack of expertise and stroppiness, but is that any worse than the anaesthetic competence and dogged four-squareness of the typical American band?

Osborne, in her Wal-Mart print dress, Carole King ringlets and nose ring, can obviously crank out her meat-and-potatoes repertoire until well after the cows come home, but only adjectives like "sluggish" and "dogged" will suffice.

One Of Us was draggingly slow, Man in the Long Black Coat was even duller than Dylan's original, and most of the rest was disturbingly turgid. Only on Right Hand Man, with its dramatic 7/4 tempo, did Osborne suggest anything out of the ordinary. Big in Germany, I reckon.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday

Questions over high cost of guards for VIP protection

Duncan Campbell

FORMER public figures who have not held office for more than 15 years are still receiving round-the-clock armed protection at a cost of millions of pounds, despite the IRA ceasefire. Senior police officers have privately expressed concern at the cost.

In Northern Ireland, attempts to reduce protection for members of the judiciary and politicians have met fierce opposition.

Sir Edward Heath, the former prime minister, has permanent protection and has made it clear he wants it to continue.

The cost on the mainland falls on the Metropolitan police, who have to assign officers to protect former ministers.

Grand jury's subpoena of First Lady sabotages president's state of the union re-election platform

Hillarygate derails Clinton

Martin Walker in Washington

POLITICS, budgets and Bill Clinton's state of the union address were simply eclipsed last night by the unprecedented spectacle of a United States president having to stand beside the only First Lady in history to be hauled before a grand jury.

President Clinton's boasts of economic and foreign policy success and his assertion that his country's condition "is strong, but could be stronger" if Democrats and Republicans in congress would only co-operate, became more of a background drone to the scandal which is becoming known as Hillarygate.

Without a majority in congress to pass it, there was no point in Mr Clinton offering a new legislative agenda. But his plan to kick off his re-election campaign with a confident vision of a new "age of possibilities" for Americans fell foul of some uglier possibilities for his wife.

The Republicans were delighted to have the spotlight shifted away from their own angry divisions over the threat of a default by the US treasury on the national debt.

Senator Robert Dole was relieved that the media was finally covering something other than the challenge of the millionaire Steve Forbes to his claim to be the front-runner in the Republican presidential stakes.

It was an extraordinary reversal of the events of just four years ago, when Mrs Clinton saved her husband's presidential candidacy as she stood by him in the adultery scandals which surfaced during the New Hampshire primary.

Although Mrs Clinton has been subpoenaed to appear for questioning, she has not yet been formally told that she is "a target" of the grand jury investigation. This means that no charges are yet expected against her over the Whitewater affair — an Arkansas property investment by the Clintons 17 years ago that became enmeshed in a bank failure and allegations of a cover up.

Two years ago, six top White House aides were subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury about Whitewater — and no charges resulted.

Mrs Clinton's summons was filed by the independent counsel investigating the Whitewater affair, Kenneth Starr, a conservative Republican who was solicitor-general in George Bush's administration.

Mrs Clinton will be asked about "the discovery and content" of long-sought billing records outlining her work for the failed bank, which was owned by the Clintons' Whitewater business partners.

The president had little to say about his wife's forthcoming testimony.

"He's confident in the First Lady," Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said yesterday.

But it hardly matters, now that polls indicate two-thirds of Americans do not trust Mrs Clinton and think she is trying to hide something. That verdict overshadowed a poll in the New York Times yesterday showing Mr Clinton comfortably defeating Mr Dole or any other Republican in the presidential race.

The poll also pointed to the opportunity Mr Clinton had lost. Whereas four years ago, nearly 60 per cent of Americans had agreed that their country's biggest problem was the economy, there is today no such consensus about any individual concern.

The deficit, crime, healthcare and the economy are each cited as the main issue by less than 20 per cent of voters.

The state of the union address was Mr Clinton's golden opportunity to impose on this vacuum his future vision — but his wife's fate is now the issue that matters.

Leader comment, page 8; Will Hutton, page 9

Ghost writer haunts the White House

Jonathan Freedland on a literary mystery

Paul Begala . . . seen as the chief suspect but cognoscenti point to a discrepancy in his writing style

PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD OLIVIER

HE or she knows Bill Clinton's sexual proclivities. He or she has an acid tongue and a keen observer's eye. He or she is right inside the presidential inner circle. But who are they?

America's chattering political classes have become hooked on a political and literary whodunnit, desperate to unmask the anonymous author of a new novel which lampoons the president, his rivals and his advisers with such accuracy that, say experts, it must be an inside job.

Primary Colors, subtitled a Novel of Politics, has become the mystery du jour in Washington, second only to the great Whitewater enigma. Published to rave reviews, the book follows a priapic southern governor, Jack Stanton, his wife Susan and their phalanx of young aides as they mount the long march of a presidential primary contest.

The publishers, Random House, refuse to reveal the name, and the company's president, Harold Evans, says he does not know who the author is, declaring that he signed a six-figure contract with a person unknown. The guessing game began when samizdat proof copies of Primary Colors started circulating last month. Now critics have stepped forward, first to deny they wrote it, and then to praise it for its uncanny proximity to the truth.

One episode has been seized on as conclusive evidence of a mole. A character called Richard Jemmons, clearly modelled on the 1992 campaign manager James Carville, contends that Stanton had oral sex, but not intercourse, with Cashmere McLeod, a barely veiled stand-in for Gennifer Flowers. It turns out that this was precisely what Mr Carville believed had transpired between his candidate and Ms Flowers.

Others say speech patterns are exact, and real conversations are related almost verbatim, including one between Stanton and Orlando Ozio, the governor of New York, a clear copy of Mario Cuomo.

There are tart barbs at some hate-figures. Susan Thomases, the confidante of Hillary Clinton, now facing possible perjury charges, is lampooned as "awful beyond imagining." Mr Clinton's former chief of staff is recast as the Dustbuster, constantly cleaning up the mess left by her indiscreet boss.

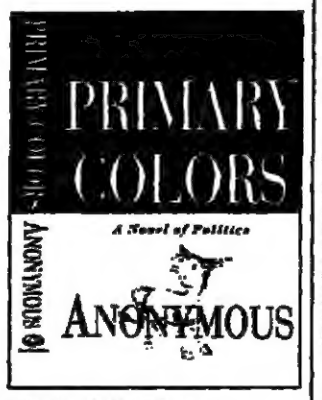
The narrator is a lookalike for the president's counsellor, George Stephanopoulos, whom friends say has become obsessed by the book. Amazed at how closely the character's thoughts resemble his own, Mr Stephanopoulos is now engaged in a full-scale search for the author's identity.

Chief suspect is former consultant Paul Begala, but most say his rapid-fire style does not match the elegance of the book's prose and he denies it vehemently. Former press secretary Dee Dee Myers has been mentioned, but the book is dedicated to "my spouse" and Ms Myers is single.

A longer list of reporters fit the bill. Newsweek's Joe Klein has the sassy style, along with Michael Kelly and Sidney Blumenthal of the New Yorker. But they, too, deny it. "Who could resist crowing if you had written a novel even half as good as Primary Colors?," wrote one suspect, Time magazine's Walter Shapiro.

Which leaves two people. The First Lady has been busy writing a book of her own, and dealing with paperwork of a different kind. But Bill Clinton loves popular fiction, is a decent stylist and a famously quick worker. Now that would be a twist.

George Stephanopoulos . . . set on identifying author



The book that has got them all guessing

Sun shines on Apple

Speculation rife that new big player is stalking cash-strapped computer giant

Mark Tran in New York

APPLE Computer was yesterday the target of speculation about an imminent $4 billion (£2.5 billion) takeover by Sun Microsystems, the new power in the computing world.

News of a potential deal emerged as Apple began what could be its last annual shareholder meeting as an independent company. Apple and Sun remained silent about a possible alliance, but Apple shares leapt on Wall Street in anticipation of a bidding war.

Apple has been at the centre of takeover rumours for months, as its fortunes have worsened. Last week, the company that was once at the vanguard of the personal-computer revolution, announced a $69 million loss for the quarter which ended on December 29 — and 1,300 layoffs.

Losses during the normally lucrative Christmas period had Wall Street wondering whether Apple could survive.

"If you can't perform at Christmas when the retail market is so strong, something's really wrong," said one computer analyst.

Under Michael Spindler, its chief executive, Apple has been plagued by blunders. The result has been shrinking market share, an exodus of executives and plummeting morale.

According to the Wall Street Journal, Sun's chief executive, Scott McNealy, has been meeting "around the clock" with aides putting the finishing touches on an offer for Apple, which is based in Cupertino, California.

Such an acquisition would come in the form of a share swap valued at about $4 billion — or roughly $33 an Apple share. On Wall Street yesterday, Apple shares were up $1 ¾ to $32 ¼.

Sun Microsystems, based in Mountain View, California, has been stalking Apple since September, but talks were suspended two weeks ago as Sun waited for Apple shares to drop. Apple shares fell 10 per cent and the company is keen to sign on the dotted line in case they fall further.

A producer of workstations — powerful desktops used mainly in research and engineering — Sun Microsystems is the rising star in the computer world, a position once held by Apple in the 1980s.

Mr McNealy — whose personal motto of "kick butt and have fun" provides its ethos — has been preaching that the typical stand-alone computer is on its way out. He argues that the future belongs to network computers that tap the power of other machines.

With the booming popularity of the Internet, many including IBM are coming round to his vision.

Sun recently made a splash with a new programming language called Java, whose popularity derives from its ability to run on disparate operating systems.

The advantage for Apple of a Sun takeover is clear: it will gain access to resources and corporate markets.

Sun is said to be keen on retaining the Macintosh operating system and related software, while ditching less profitable hardware operations.

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The NHS Ethnic Health Unit invites applicants for funds for projects which:

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- Mental health, including the needs of Asian women, Chinese and Vietnamese.

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NHS applicants must be in partnership with local ethnic minority groups and should have a project plan ready to commence. Funding will be for a maximum of 12 months.

The NHS Ethnic Health Unit does not fund research projects or services which are part of NHS mainstream provision.

Full details and an application form are available from:

NHS Ethnic Health Unit
7 Belmont Grove
Leeds LS2 9NP
Telephone: 0113 246 7336

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Friday 22 March 1996

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Style endures at *Chanel tribute*

The Chanel couture collection, shown in Paris yesterday, was a rhapsodic tribute by the incumbent designer, Karl Lagerfeld, to the legend of Coco Chanel. This year marks the 25th anniversary of her death, and the collection was shown in the Windsor and Imperial suites of the Ritz Hotel, the rooms in which she spent the final years of her life. Lagerfeld, pictured right with three of the models, took all the Chanel hallmarks and produced a collection of consummate artistry and style. She may well have approved. "Fashion," she said, "passes. Only style endures."

Fraud inquiry slates police

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

THE accountant who defrauded the Metropolitan police of £5 million was under suspicion six years before he was arrested, according to a report published yesterday. An inquiry found it "astonishing" and "unacceptable" that he was able to perpetrate such an extensive fraud under the noses of the country's largest police force.

The Public Accounts Committee said it was "dismayed" no one had noted the change in the accountant's lifestyle. He had spent nearly £4 million on buying and renovating properties, in addition to purchasing baronial titles, one of which cost £60,000.

The findings are published in the select committee's review of the case of Anthony Williams, a senior civilian member of the Metropolitan police, who defrauded his employers of £5,107,416. He was convicted on 19 counts of theft at the Old Bailey in May last year and jailed for seven and a half years. A further 535 cases were taken into consideration.

Williams stole the money from a confidential fund used to combat serious crime operations involving drugs, terrorism, and murder. He used the money to buy hotels and homes in the Scottish highlands, London, and Spain. He paid over the odds for all the houses and services, the inquiry was told, and only £1 million of the money has been recovered.

The review considered it "unacceptable that the [Metropolitan police] service was not able to prevent a fraud of £5 million against itself" and "deplored the failure of the service to inform the Home Office of the departure from basic financial controls".

It concluded: "We are astonished internal audit arrangements had not been set in place for this operation and Williams was able to deflect ... queries." The committee added it was concerned the service did not respond to the "doubts raised in 1988 by the auditor of the operation of the Welfare Fund".

The committee accepted the Metropolitan police had taken action to review and improve the controls over such funds.

A Review of the Financial Controls over Indirectly Funded Operations of the Metropolitan Police Service. Committee of Public Accounts, HMSO £8.

Jails offered prizes as part-timers take jobs

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THE Prison Service is introducing part-time staff to cover weekends, "selective reductions" in jail regimes, and a "special ideas scheme" with prizes for the best cost-cutting suggestions as part of the public spending package cutting 2,800 jobs.

The measures are contained in a leaked "Advice to Governors" note sent to all prisons within the past week. It reveals that the closure of some prisons through mergers with nearby jails is likely to be announced next month and confirms most prisons will have to make staff cuts.

The document, signed by Brian Landers, now the Prison Service director of finance, says: "All governors should now review their approach to reducing costs and include the main outcome in their business plans. You may well wish to decide the precise mix of measures, in the light of local circumstances and requirements, after discussion with your area manager." Mr Landers was the finance director of Habitat International until his appointment last year.

A separate internal document drawn up David Scott, the new personnel director, reveals that a £5 million package of ex-gratia payments has been negotiated with the Treasury to buy out the jobs of 2,800 prison staff through a voluntary redundancy scheme.

The first officers are expected to go in July under the Verse programme — voluntary early retirement and severance. Staff are to be offered "exit packages".

The internal circular also confirms that a temporary recruitment freeze was introduced in the Prison Service last month.

Mr Scott is formerly the personnel director of BT, which shed more than 100,000 jobs over five years.

Harry Fletcher of the Prisons Are Not For Profit campaign said: "The Prison Service are in an impossible position. They are looking for £65 million in the first year alone and the cuts so far suggested will not meet ministers' demands yet they will drastically hit regime activities. The idea of cuts to gas consumption in the kitchens is an indication of the desperation of the Prison Service's plight."

The cost-cutting measures include:

☐ Using more junior prison "auxiliaries" to staff prison gates and to search visitors.

☐ Using part-time staff, including the recently retired or those who left mid-career to have children, to cover peak times, particulary covering weekends.

☐ Amending the prison rules so that the inmates' complaints can be dealt with at a lower level.

☐ Contracting out prison service health care and using private security guards to mount hospital "bedwatches" and prisoner transfers.

☐ Cutting the cost of gas and electricity used in prison kitchens by 30 per cent by installing meters to secure energy savings. The Prison Service denies this will lead to more cold food being served.

☐ Governors are told to "exploit commercial opportunities" arising from prison workshops. It explains: "Where goods and services are provided for outside sale, check that they are what people want to buy and for which they are prepared to pay a good price. Look for new opportunities to generate income."

☐ As the "last option" the note tells governors to consider "selective regime reductions". It says that governors must meet their legal obligations and concentrate on those activities designed to reduce re-offending. Education classes are to be reduced to a "core curriculum" and the internal briefing paper envisages that in some cases reductions of more than 30 per cent in classes will be required. "Impulsive young offenders may not benefit from traditional classroom teaching," it advises. A new system of outside accreditation for programmes is to be set to help determine "what works". Amongst the first to be accredited is the sex offender programme.

☐ Savings in staff expenses recommended include timing meetings to avoid the need for overnight stays or peak hour travel and paying subsistence "only where costs have actually been incurred". A "special ideas scheme" has been launched this month with rewards for those who put forward "workable suggestions, particulary those which result in cost reductions".

Rushdie makes it a losing double

Mike Ellison
Arts Correspondent

A 44-YEAR-OLD former chambermaid won one of Britain's leading literary awards last night ahead of Salman Rushdie, who had been the hottest favourite in the prize's 25-year history.

Kate Atkinson won the £21,000 Whitbread Book of the Year award with her first novel, Behind the Scenes at the Museum. Richard Hoggart, chairman of the judges, said: "It's a working class chronicle of life in York, it's rather picaresque, and a remarkable achievement.

"One of the judges said it was a post-modern novel, but no one knows what that is. I don't know if Kate Atkinson knows she was being very post-modern, but she's learned something from Laurence Sterne and James Joyce. It's rip-roaring, it's very lively and it has its vulgarities, deliberately. What she'll go on to, I wouldn't like to bet."

Ms Atkinson's victory completed a unique non-double for Rushdie, most heavily backed favourite ever for both the Booker and Whitbread prizes and yet winner of neither. He had been expected to take the Booker with The Moor's Last Sigh in the autumn, but that went to Pat Barker with The Ghost Road.

Behind the Scenes at the Museum was described by one critic as "without doubt one of the finest novels I have ever read." Ms Atkinson, who took up full-time writing four years ago and has been married twice, lives in Edinburgh with her two daughters. She is only the second woman to win the Book of the Year prize.

The judges are understood to have focused their attention on the books by Ms Atkinson, Mr Rushdie and Lord Jenkins, who once nursed ambitions to be prime minister and made the shortlist with his biography of Gladstone, who won the office four times.

"None of the judges came back and said they wanted the same one to win," said one of the Whitbread organisers before the panel went into its final 55-minute meeting. "It was quite close between those three."

Professor Hoggart said: "It wasn't quite unanimous and you wouldn't expect it to be. There was someone to speak warmly and with gusto about all the books. A third of the way through, I thought it was going to go on for ever and asked if we could knock a couple off and they said yes. Rushdie was not one of those."

Ms Atkinson, who has also been a community worker, home help and teacher, wrote as a hobby for seven years before winning the Woman's Own short story competition in 1988. Two years later, she became a full-time writer.

"It was the leanest year of our lives" she said. "I knew I had to take a fairly drastic step in order to make me take myself seriously. You have to think 'I know I am good and sooner or later someone else will think so as well'."

She won the 1993 Ian St James prize for a short story and took on a new agent. Three short stories became the start of Behind the Scenes and she won a contract. "I thought: 'Oh no, now I've got to finish it'."

Kate Atkinson . . . Whitbread winner with 'post-modern' chronicle of working class life PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Ulster report blow to Major

Continued from page 1

Mitchell's report alludes to Unionist proposals for fresh elections. It is likely that he will suggest that elections are the best way of establishing a democratic mandate.

The Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, said that the twin-track approach of an international panel on arms and preliminary dialogue was only established because of "British bad faith."

He said: "We should have been involved, all of the parties on the island, a long time ago in inclusive negotiations to consolidate the peace process."

Mr Mitchell is expected to call for confidence-building measures concerning the police, prisoners, and punishment beatings.

Meanwhile, the Home Office confirmed last night that three IRA prisoners — Sean Kinsella, Stephen Nordone and Noel Gibson — who have been imprisoned for more than 20 years in Britain, are to be released.

But all three, originally from Northern Ireland and serving life sentences, will have to serve at least the initial stages of their parole in England or Wales and report to local probation officers.

"The parole board has decided that the three prisoners convicted in 1976 should be given parole," a Home Office spokesman said. "On release they will be resettled under the terms of the 1991 Criminal Justice Act. If probation services make a recommendation, they will be allowed to leave the country (England and Wales)."

The Home Office last night insisted that timing of the men's release was coincidental. All three men succeeded in taking the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, to the High Court last year to challenge his failure to review their continuing imprisonment after their 20-year "tariff" had expired.

In his judgment, Mr Justice Dyson declared that the Home Secretary had unlawfully delayed for six months the possible release of the longest-serving IRA prisoners in English jails and flouted the European Convention on Human Rights.

His flamboyant management style has made him a legend in the commodity trading business. One former employee tells of the time he gave four traders £25,000 apiece and dispatched them to Monte Carlo with instructions not to return until they had won £500,000 on the gaming tables. Yet virtually nothing is known about him in the outside world.

G2 cover story

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Government claims finances are in excellent shape but Labour accuses company of fattening itself up for sale

Minister plans to sell off all Railtrack at flotation

Keith Harper on rail privatisation move

THE Government is looking to sell the whole of Railtrack and not just 51 per cent when the state-owned company is floated in May.

Ministers believe the company is in good enough financial shape to be totally sold off.

The move would make it far harder for Labour to renationalise Railtrack and so keep its pledge to maintain a publicly-owned rail network. The decision emerged yesterday when Bob Horton, Railtrack's chairman, published its interim results.

The figures, on which the flotation will be based, are modest. They show that Railtrack made a profit of £98 million for the six months up to last September, but these are underpinned by big subsidies from the Government.

Mr Horton is insisting that £1.2 billion be written off, leaving the company, which is responsible for maintaining the industry's infrastructure, with borrowings of no more than £500 million.

The Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, believes the privatisation of the industry is proceeding so well that nothing stands in the way of the flotation.

Its real value is more than £4 billion but the Government would be happy to sell it for less than half that amount.

Mr Horton said the company looked forward to thriving in the private sector. "An enormous amount of effort has continued to be put into developing our operational organisation, and preparing for our flotation."

He rejected Labour Party claims that the company was fattening itself up for privatisation by holding back £1 billion which should be spent on improving tracks, signals and stations.

The shadow transport secretary, Clare Short, said Railtrack's figures had nothing to do with improving investment "in our increasingly dilapidated railways".

Any "profits" shown were being produced almost exclusively from public subsidy.

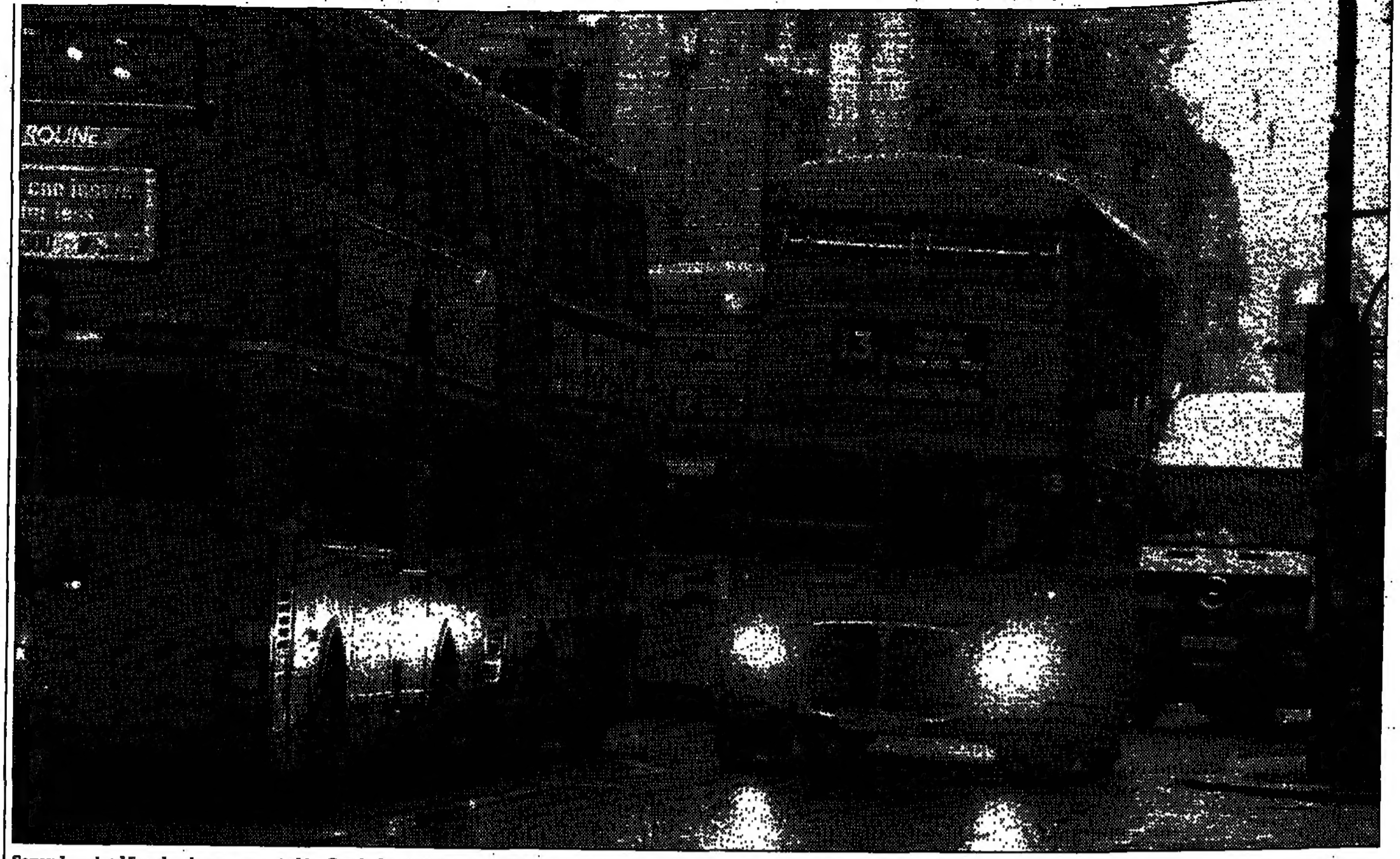
She said that none of the changes would lead to the improvement of a single line for the public.

Ms Short warned prospective purchasers of Railtrack that they should be under "no illusions regarding Labour's commitment in government to safeguard the public finances". It would not allow public assets and public subsidy to be siphoned off from the rail network.

Railtrack's finance director, Norman Broadhurst, said provision had been made in the current figures for improvements, but these could not be carried out before privatisation.

In the first three or four years after flotation, Railtrack would be spending at a higher level on signalling and tracks. "The work will be done. We are not walking away from it."

Critics of the flotation last night pointed out that Railtrack was preparing for flotation with no track record. The regulator has already clawed back £340 million of potential profits by reducing charges by 8 per cent.



Seven hundred London buses operated by Cowie South London and Stagecoach East London yesterday took to the roads in a five-year anti-pollution experiment launched by Transport Secretary Sir George Young. The UK's biggest campaign to cut bus emissions involves using ultra-low sulphur fuel, with some also fitted with catalysts PHOTOGRAPH: E HAMILTON WEST

Staff exodus increases princess's isolation

Edward Pilkington

THE Princess of Wales appeared more isolated than ever last night as the haemorrhaging of her staff continued with the resignation of both her personal assistant and chauffeur.

The latest resignations, bringing to four the number of her staff who have quit since the Panorama interview in November, have propelled her office into imminent crisis, leaving barely a skeleton team of two secretaries and three domestic staff in Kensington Palace — a butler, cook and dresser.

Soon after the Panorama broadcast her press secretary, Geoffrey Crawford, resigned, and on Monday her private secretary, Patrick Jephson, departed amid mounting concern about an acrimonious legal challenge between the princess and Tiggy Legge-Bourke, a nanny employed by the Prince of Wales.

Yesterday Nicky Cockell, aged 32, the princess's personal assistant, joined the exodus. So did her chauffeur, Steve Davis, who is believed to have quit after a reappraisal of her driving needs.

Ms Cockell had worked directly for Mr Jephson, dealing with the princess's important correspondence. His resignation letter said he had a growing family and wanted to pursue a new career path. But he is also known to have been distressed by the princess's behaviour in going to Panorama behind his back.

It has also been suggested that the final straw for Mr Jephson was the princess's legal complication. She recently received a letter from lawyers demanding a retraction of a seven-word comment she is alleged to have made to Ms Legge-Bourke at a party.

As news of further departures from her office broke, the princess tried to shore up her team by appointing a woman from a London-based public relations consultancy to act as a media adviser. Her identity is likely to be announced later this week.

The part-time post, funded by the Prince of Wales, is likely to be onerous as it will involve presenting a coherent image of the princess at a time when her behaviour appears increasingly unpredictable and confused.

A top PR consultant and friend of the princess said: "She should count her blessings and look jolly cheerful. I don't know anybody who has got as much as she has and yet looks so bloody tearful."

Other PR agencies expressed their unwillingness to be associated with the contract to represent her. One leading woman consultant said: "I wouldn't want to be involved in anything so political."

The walk-out of staff leaves the princess apparently dependent on her "kitchen cabinet" of friends and health advisers who include the psychoanalyst, Susie Orbach, who sees her regularly for counselling sessions, and Rosa Monckton, managing director of Tiffany's and wife of Sunday Telegraph editor Dominic Lawson.

Ironically, the Duchess of York, who is in America, is also likely to be a growing influence in the absence of formal support. The two royals have followed uncannily similar paths, with both complaining about their treatment at the hands of Buckingham Palace and both struggling to find roles for themselves.

The duchess provided a model for Princess Diana's new press arrangements by creating a post of independent press adviser outside the palace. However it is perhaps ominous that the adviser, Dominique Vulliamy, handed in her notice last week amid news of the duchess's chaotic finances.

Carriage faults cut rail service

Keith Harper

FAULTY couplings between carriages on trains from London to the South-east and Kent last night caused 50 per cent of services to be suspended and long delays for 100,000 people.

The Health and Safety Executive is inspecting 340 of the 600 carriages run by the South East Trains operating company, a subsidiary of British Rail. It was forced to take action after the train drivers' union, Aslef, refused to operate the trains.

The rolling stock is only four years old. It consists of Networkers, built at Derby by ABB for £3.5 million for each train set. Faults were originally found when one piece of stock separated in a shed. South East wanted to operate the trains by locking the communicating doors, but the union objected. The company said that if a train did come apart while in service the brakes were designed "to stop both parts immediately."

Lew Adams, Aslef's general secretary, said: "We believe the units are unsafe. Our drivers are justified under health and safety legislation. If it had been any other industry, these trains would have been grounded. Alternatives must be provided until the units are certified as safe."

But South East has no other rolling stock. Each carriage will be returned to service after being cleared by the HSE, a process likely to take more than a week. In the meantime, the service normally offered on Saturdays will run on weekdays.

Brian Wilson, Labour's transport spokesman, said the incident had "devastating implications" for privatisation. He had been told that it could be several weeks before services were back to normal.

If this were to happen after privatisation, a company like South East could be bankrupted, facing losses of millions of pounds in claim and counter-claim, he said. In an integrated transport system, rolling stock could be diverted from other areas.

The drivers are using the law allowing them to refuse to operate machinery if they feel they are in "serious or imminent danger".

With the Princess of Wales suffering a haemorrhaging of staff since her Panorama interview we asked public relations experts what they thought she should do to improve her relationship with the media

Max Clifford, celebrity PR who represented Antonia de Sancha over her affair with the former cabinet minister David Mellor

THIS is an important time for the princess. The battle continues: her versus the rest of them, and it is vitally important she choses somebody strong.

The person needs to be able to take decisions and lead rather than be led. And they must be able to build her profile worldwide.

Diana's the biggest star this country has got. She needs to be treated not as royalty but as a superstar who needs promoting and protecting.

Quentin Bell, chairman of the Quentin Bell Organisation, one of Europe's top 10 PR companies

PRINCESS Diana doesn't need a media relations person, she needs a strategist. The difference is that a strategist would look longer term and come up with almost a military campaign.

It's also important she doesn't go for the cheap option. She wants to employ a top of the range consultant who really knows what they are doing, not a sycophant, and that means investing £100,000 a year plus.

Brian Basham, PR consultant to a range of businesses and organiser for the campaign for a two-minute silence

THIS is a very difficult brief. Normal practise is to get the product right first before you try and project it to the media.

Max Clifford is the obvious man for the job. There are strong parallels between him and the princess — they clearly share the same hairdresser and both are completely unashamed manipulators of the press.

Di manipulates the media like a true expert, but denies she is doing it.

Mark Borkowski, a celebrity PR specialist whose clients include Cliff Richard and Mikhail Gorbachev

DIANA'S recent approach to the media doesn't seem to have been very sensible. She should have sought professional advice before agreeing to the Panorama interview.

Her performance on television was like proclaiming to the world "Look! I've gone public". Now everybody assumes she is even more public property than before.

The job of handling PR for Di must be the job from hell. She's a loose cannon.

Maureen Smith, chairman of the Communication Group which represents Camelot, the lottery organisers

THE fact that the Princess of Wales appears to have chosen a woman to advise her on media relations is significant.

The imperatives are: complete trust between the princess and her adviser: absolute clarity on her future role and an acceptance that constant and sensational exposure in the tabloids undermines the good work she undoubtedly does. Only then can the princess hope to win the PR battle.

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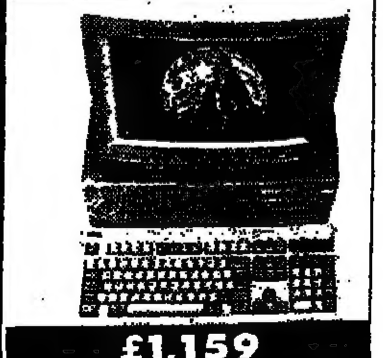

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News in brief

47 arrested in £½m benefit fraud raids

POLICE believe they have cracked a £500,000 benefit fraud ring after arresting 47 people in a series of dawn raids across the Midlands. Police from Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Northamptonshire searched 18 addresses in the three counties, and in Birmingham and Doncaster, in the raids codenamed Operation Bomber.

Twenty-three men, 22 women and two young girls have been taken to police stations in Nottinghamshire where they are being questioned about a benefits racket which is believed to have netted more than £500,000 in two years.

Social workers are trying to find temporary homes for up to 25 children whose parents were arrested in the raids.

Crashed copter 'in a hurry'

THE crew of an RAF Chinook helicopter which crashed on the Mull of Kintyre with the loss of 29 lives had partly planned their flight to Scotland to gain more experience of low-level flying, an inquiry was told yesterday. They may also have been tempted to complete their journey quickly to avoid falling foul of an eight-hour limit for their total flying time that day.

The disclosure was made by an RAF squadron leader, who agreed with the crown that these were "far from ideal" circumstances to undertake the flight. But the squadron leader, whom the media have agreed not to identify on security grounds, disputed a suggestion from John Mitchell QC, for the crown, that it was "extraordinary" that the crew should have treated the outbound leg as having a training element when they were carrying 25 passengers.

"I would not consider it extraordinary", said the squadron leader, who was supervising Puma and Chinook helicopters at RAF Aldergrove at the time of the tragedy in June 1994. He said the passengers were military or military-related, and would have flown routinely at low level before.

"The transit to Inverness was chosen to go at low level to maximise the training value to the crew of a flight over that distance. I would not consider it hazardous. The crew were trained to operate at low level, there was nothing in the rules and regulations which precluded that flight being undertaken with those passengers on board."

The elite of Northern Ireland's top counter-terrorism experts — 10 RUC officers, nine army intelligence officers, six MI5 officials and the four man RAF special forces crew — died when the Chinook crashed on the Mull of Kintyre less than 20 minutes after taking off from Aldergrove.

The squadron leader told the inquiry that the helicopter was scheduled to do several troop movement trips in Northern Ireland that day before the evening Scottish trip.

Helicopter crews in Northern Ireland were limited to seven flying hours a day to avoid fatigue, but this could be extended and the captain, Flt Lt Jonathan Tapper sought an extension to eight hours, he said.

The inquiry continues today.

37pc more women in jail

THE number of women in jail in England and Wales jumped by 37 per cent over the past two years, from 1,573 in December 1993 to 2,150 in December 1995, according to a report published by the Howard League yesterday.

Howard League director Frances Crook said: "Despite the recent publicity about security and the shackling of pregnant prisoners, the Home Secretary has not addressed the fundamental problem that too many women are in prison.

"This Government's policies are leading to the over-use and misuse of prison for women. A vast majority of these women should not be sent to prison in the first place, especially when more than a third of them are fine defaulters." The report found that 22 per cent of women were jailed for theft and handling stolen goods, while 37 per cent who entered prison in 1993 were fine defaulters and 39 per cent had no previous convictions.

A Home Office spokesman said: "Sentencing is a matter for the courts. It's their decision whether to send someone to prison if they think it's appropriate."

Crash kills RAF pilot

AN RAF Jaguar plane crashed on take-off at RAF Coltishall near Norwich, Norfolk, yesterday, killing the pilot. RAF investigators have begun attempting to discover the cause of the crash.

The single-seater attack and reconnaissance plane had been beginning a routine training flight to RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland. Officials at the base said the Jaguar had failed to gain height and instead belly-flopped into a cornfield and stopped near a road. The pilot's ejector seat had worked, although his body was not in the seat when it was found about 500 metres from the end of the runway. The inquiry will now try to establish whether the accident was caused by mechanical failure or pilot error, and determine whether the pilot's parachute worked properly. Officials have not named the pilot.

Gas safety tightened

NEW gas safety measures were announced yesterday following the death of a Scottish footballer and his girlfriend from carbon monoxide poisoning. The Health and Safety Executive has introduced a certification scheme for gas fitters following the discovery of the bodies of Dunfermline Athletic captain Norrie McCathie, aged 34, and Amanda Burns, 26, at a house they were renovating in Dunfermline this month.

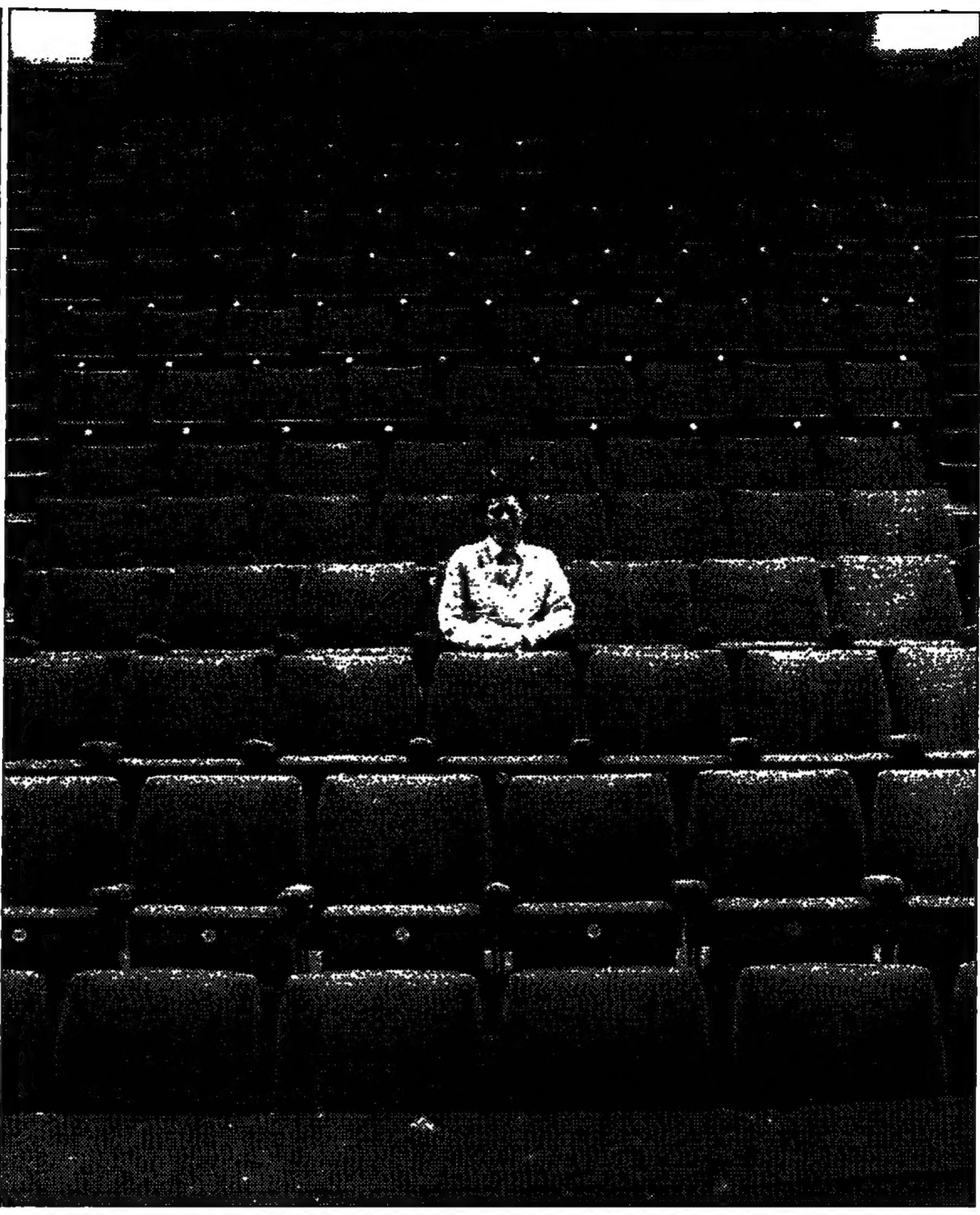
The Council for Registered Gas Installers is set to oversee the initiative. "For gas consumers this scheme is revolutionary," said HSE's deputy director general, David Eves, at a London news conference. We are also determined to crack down further on illegal gas work which can lead to gas appliances being installed and maintained in an unsafe way," he added. Under the scheme the public will be able to ask to see a fitter's certificate.

Scottish poet dies at 85

NORMAN MacCaig, the Scottish poet regarded as one of the finest English language writers of the century, died yesterday in an Edinburgh hospital, aged 85. Raised above a chemist's shop in Edinburgh, Mr MacCaig grew into the foremost chronicler of the north-west Scottish wilderness.

Nine collections of poems came out between 1955 and 1988. An anthology appeared in 1990, four years after he had been awarded the Queen's Gold medal for Poetry. He was always modest about his achievements, claiming he only began versifying at school because poems were shorter than essays.

His popularity in his homeland was demonstrated by the crowds who turned out for birthday parties which became quasi-national events. Last November a parade of Scottish performers, including fiddler Aly Bain, paid tribute before a sell-out audience of 500 at Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms. — *Erlend Clouston*



Jean Clark, a Harlow councillor, at the Playhouse Theatre, which needs £400,000 a year to run PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MARTIN

Playhouse to remain in the dark

Theatre looks for lifeline as it fails to attract grants or lottery money, reports David Ward

THE Arts Council of England will announce tomorrow its grant handouts for 1996/97, but the Playhouse Theatre in Harlow, Essex, dark since last June, will not receive a penny.

Consultants have said the 550-seat theatre, built by the local council with £484,000 of its own money in 1971, now needs £400,000 a year to run a full programme of events. Harlow council, capped by the Government, can only find £150,000 compared with the £500,000 it handed over four years ago.

The Arts Council, faced with too many clients and a budget cut this year, cannot help. Nor can the Eastern Arts Board, which withdrew its very limited support at the end of the 1980s.

Lottery cash can be used only for capital projects, not running costs. Some minor relaxations in the rules were announced this week, but they will not help Harlow.

Officials are trying to recover £170,000 owed to the council by a management company which went into liquidation soon after taking over the running of the theatre.

Tricia Taylor, Harlow's head of research and information services, is wooing neighbouring councils in an attempt to put together the necessary £400,000.

"We know the theatre is viable but the money is just not there. If the lottery rules were changed there could be a far more effective allocation of funds," she said. "It would have been far better if the arts boards had done an audit of existing provision and needs before going on with the new ventures now being funded."

The theatre is likely to reopen in April, with a limited community programme based on Harlow's active amateur music and drama groups. Negotiations have started with a London-based drama school which might use the theatre as a permanent base.

Ms Clark hopes the people of Harlow will get their theatre back in full operation in 1997. "People look at the Playhouse with affection, and are angry it has been taken from them."

Debt and job fears 'curb spending'

James Meikle
Community Affairs Editor

MANY people are so afraid of losing their jobs or getting into debt that they are reluctant to spend money, a report out yesterday suggests.

Mintel, the research company and analyst, says the recession of the early 1990s has affected people's spending, despite gradual improvements in the economy.

Reduction in state health, education and pensions means people paying more to maintain living standards. They will probably also spend more on toiletries and medicines, clothing, footwear and leisure goods to increase their sense of well-being, although their income increases only slowly, the survey suggests.

Incomes and expectations are increasingly polarised. The affluent are switching money from property to stocks and shares and spending their disposable income more cautiously. Poorer families, still threatened with debt, are struggling to get by.

The report, based on official statistics and the company's research, says more people are also turning to gambling, mainly through the National Lottery, for comfort.

The trend started before the lottery's introduction in 1994 but has risen sharply since, the survey says. Nine out of 10 adults gamble, compared with two thirds in 1991, and spending on the pastime rose by more than 40 per cent last year.

This reflects "a need for increased excitement and the hope of winning a fortune as a release from financial constraints and hardship imposed by a low inflation economy and high unemployment".

Mintel says the £5 billion a year lottery outlay is creating "an economic tremor no one yet fully understands".

Other habits are also changing. Mintel reports an apparent increase in the number of people wanting to eat together formally at home, rather than while watching TV, and suggests a significant increase in eating out.

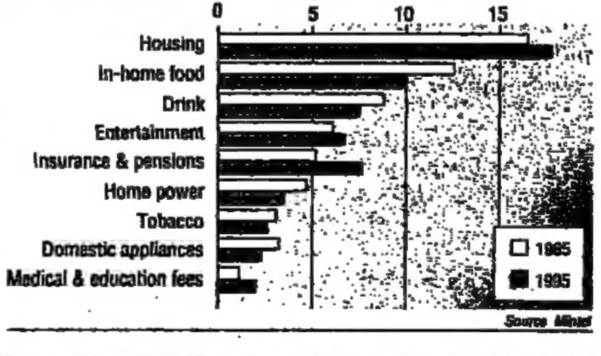
It also questions how fast the population is coming to terms with computers, the Internet and multi-media technology.

Nearly a fifth, 19 per cent, of 1,613 adults questioned in 1995 were "technophobes" with no interest or understanding, compared with 14 per cent the previous year. "Technocrats", the group most interested in new technology, remained unchanged at 18 per cent.

British Lifestyles; Mintel, 18/19 Long Lane, London EC1A 9HE; £995.

Where the money goes

Percentage spent on main areas of household spending.



Source: Mintel

New state pension plan urged

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

A NEW, partly means-tested state pension should be introduced to ensure that Britain's growing elderly population has enough to live on, an independent inquiry today recommends.

Working people should be required also to contribute to a second-tier pension plan, the inquiry says. A national pension scheme should be set up as an alternative to occupational or personal pensions and as a replacement for Serps, the earnings-related state supplement.

The two-year inquiry has produced plans similar to those put forward by the Labour Party's social justice commission, suggesting an emerging consensus on the idea of what the inquiry calls an assured pension.

Under its proposals, the basic state pension would remain payable to all but would be absorbed within the assured pension, which would be higher, on the basis of a partial means test.

The assured pension would rise in line with earnings, the basic element only with prices. Over time, the means-tested element would come to make up the bulk of the pension. All income would be tested, but assets would not.

Terri Banks, the inquiry's project director and former registrar general for England and Wales, said: "An assured pension could be introduced quite quickly — and that's crucial because it would help tackle the problem of the poorest pensioners."

The inquiry was set up and funded by the National Association of Pension Funds and carried out by a 14-strong team drawn from business, trade unions, consumer groups, Whitehall and think tanks.

The team was asked to consider that the existing pension, uprated by prices rather than earnings since 1980, has fallen in value to 15 per cent of average male earnings; that only 17 per cent of employees remained in Serps; that there would be 13.5 million pensioners in 2030, compared to 10.4 million in 1991.

Sir John Anson, the inquiry's chairman and former Treasury second permanent secretary, said he hoped the report would stimulate debate.

The report says it is "not possible" to restore the basic pension to a level that would guarantee an adequate level of income for all.

To increase it to the equivalent of 20 per cent of average male earnings, where it was in 1979, would cost £6.6 billion immediately and almost £50 billion by 2030.

By contrast, an assured pension could guarantee the same income (£73.50 a week) for £3 billion, assuming it was paid at a rate of 160 per cent for a couple and was tapered so that it was reduced by 75p for every pound of income over eligibility level.

The second-tier pension would be required initially at a minimum contribution of 4.8 per cent of earnings, split between employers and employees. But this would be increased gradually in order to keep down the cost of the assured pension.

Phasing out Serps and introducing the new, funded national pension scheme would cost an extra 0.5-0.7 per cent, the report estimates.

The new pension scheme would be run independently of government.

Pensions: 2000 and Beyond; Shelwing Ltd, 127 Sandgate Road, Folkestone CT20 2BL; £5.50 inc pp

Sir John Anson: hopes that report will lead to debate

ITN union staff vote to strike

Andrew Culf
Media Correspondent

JOURNALISTS and technicians at ITN voted yesterday to hold a two-hour strike which could disrupt news bulletins.

Union officials warned that the strike would be the first of a series — possibly escalating into 24-hour walkouts — unless talks resumed.

ITN's management says its programmes, including News at Ten and Channel 4 News, will be screened as normal.

Members of the National Union of Journalists and the Broadcasting, Entertainment, Cinematograph and Theatre Union are protesting at ITN's decision to abandon collective pay bargaining, which they claim amounts to union derecognition.

Of 333 NUJ and Bectu members balloted, 183 voted for industrial action. ITN's work force is 674. John Fray, the NUJ's national broadcasting organiser, said: "This is an overwhelming vote of no confidence in management's intentions, which will have to be modified to avoid the risk of serious disruption."

The first strike is planned for February 1 at a time to be specified. Mr Fray said: "We have given nine days' notice in the hope that sensible negotiations can go ahead."

ITN said only a small proportion of staff had voted to strike. "We are confident there will be no disruption to transmission of programmes," said a spokeswoman.

Stewart Purvis, its chief executive, is to meet staff today for a briefing. He insists that management should be allowed to pay performance-related salaries.

The historically high salaries of Bectu staff "pose a consistent problem in negotiations for new television news business contracts in a fiercely competitive market." he said.

Stewart Purvis: briefing

A Special Announcement

The Costa Rica Wanderer

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Owner thought trawler 'had been sunk by submarine'

ONE of the operators of a trawler which sank with all six crew believed it had been hit by a submarine, Bristol crown court was told yesterday.

Steven Hulme, who had been the ship's mate but left before the fatal voyage, was giving evidence for the prosecution on the fourth day of the trial of Alan Ayres, aged 56, and Joseph O'Connor, aged 44. Mr Ayres was convinced a submarine was responsible, Mr Hulme said.

Both deny six charges of manslaughter. Mr Ayres and Mr O'Connor, both from Plymouth, were director and managing agent respectively of Guideday Ltd, which owned the trawler.

The 70ft Pescado sank 13 miles off south Cornwall after sailing from Falmouth on February 25, 1991. Mr Hulme, who joined the vessel in December 1990, left after a dispute over money.

Asked by the prosecutor Francis Gilbert, QC, about safety equipment, Mr Hulme could recall no life belts. A single life raft, was out of date, and lashed to the vessel's rail. It was "relatively useless" in that position in an emergency, said Mr Hulme.

He approached Mr O'Connor, who said it would be updated after Christmas. But the raft was still lashed to the railings when the boat sank. After the sinking, Mr Hulme said Mr Ayres maintained there had been two.

While he was with the vessel there was no satellite distress beacon fitted — "a vital piece of equipment".

The prosecution claims the vessel was unseaworthy and had no safety certificate.

Family of 'abused' suicide takes race case to tribunal

John Mullin

A BUS driver said to be the victim of racial abuse committed suicide after resigning in despair from the job he loved, a tribunal in Birmingham was told yesterday.

The family of Tim Samuels, who hanged himself six days after his 27th birthday, are mounting an unusual action claiming he was subjected to racial discrimination at work and his employers were guilty of constructive dismissal.

Mr Samuels worked with West Midlands Travel where he suffered abuse from passengers and colleagues, according to evidence yesterday. He started to suffer from depression.

After three months' sick leave, his employers called him to several disciplinary meetings. After the last hearing on January 11 last year he decided to resign. Mr Samuels's body was discovered at his flat in Highgate, Birmingham, the following day.

His brother, Peter Samuels, aged 29, also a driver with the company, said: "He was a timid person who liked to help people." He had begun to complain about harassment in early 1994 and he went from being jolly to miserable. The tribunal was told he had complained to the Commission for Racial Equality shortly before he died.

Mr Samuels said of his brother: "On one occasion, he mentioned a new gaffer he nicknamed 'Sack 'em' and said he was going to get rid of everyone who was off sick. He said he might as well resign."

The hearing continues.

Graft at heart of Seoul's miracle

Andrew Higgins in Seoul on an 'established tradition' which has landed top politicians and businessmen in the dock

WHEN a Soviet fighter plane shot down flight KAL 007 in September 1983, killing all 269 people on board, the corporate executive responsible for Korean Airlines knew exactly what he had to do in such a moment of crisis.

He paid a visit to the Blue House presidential mansion in Seoul and, according to prosecutors, handed over a cheque worth £2.5 million to the country's military ruler, President Chun Doo-hwan.

As head of the Hanjin Group, owner of Korean Airlines, Cho Choong-hoon could do nothing to undo the tragedy in the Soviet Far East. But he could keep the carnage from spreading into South Korean boardrooms. Paying off the president — now in jail along with his successor, Roh Tae-woo — offered the best protection.

He had made the same calculation, say prosecutors, three years earlier after a KAL crash at Seoul. With the government launching an inquiry, he judged it prudent to pay President Chun nearly £1 million.

Such payments are among nearly £600 million allegedly collected by President Chun and his entourage between 1980 and 1988 from Hanjin, Hyundai, Samsung and other corporate conglomerates, known as *chaebols*, that powered South Korea's economic triumphs and bankrolled the slush funds, election war chests and secret bank accounts of the country's ruling elite.

The penalties for not getting on with the Blue House have always been severe. When Kim Sung-gon, founder of the Sangyong group, fell foul of the authorities in the 1970s he had his moustache pulled out one hair at a time. More common was to be blacklisted for credit or set upon by tax inspectors.

The heads of eight *chaebols*, including Samsung and Daewoo, face charges of paying bribes to stay in favour with past military rulers. More are likely to be indicted soon. Only one, though, has so far been jailed, allowing the rest to arrive at Seoul's factory-like courthouse in chauffeur-driven limousines. None denies greasing palms but all insist that making "donations" was, as Daewoo's chairman, Kim Woo-chong, told the court, merely "a long-established tradition".

"The whole system is contaminated by corruption and collusion between money and politics," says Sohn Hak-kyu, MP and spokesman for the ruling New Korea Party. Of South Korea's current president, Kim Young-sam, who has himself admitted to "wrong practices", he says: "The president has decided not to take money. This is a revolutionary idea in Korean politics."

The sums involved are staggering. Mr Chun, now recovering from a 26-day hunger strike, allegedly pocketed £180 million. A further £400 million or so ended up in a general slush fund. Mr Roh, a military colleague and successor in the Blue House, took £244 million for himself.

"Nobody was shocked by revelations of corruption but they were shocked by the scale. They have been outrageously greedy," said Philip Smiley, manager of Jardine Fleming Securities in Seoul.

There is little novelty in a pledge by President Kim Young-sam to "purify" the system. When Park Chung-hee seized power in a coup in 1961 he began his 18-year rule with an anti-corruption drive, a pattern since repeated by every new leader including Mr Chun and Mr Roh.

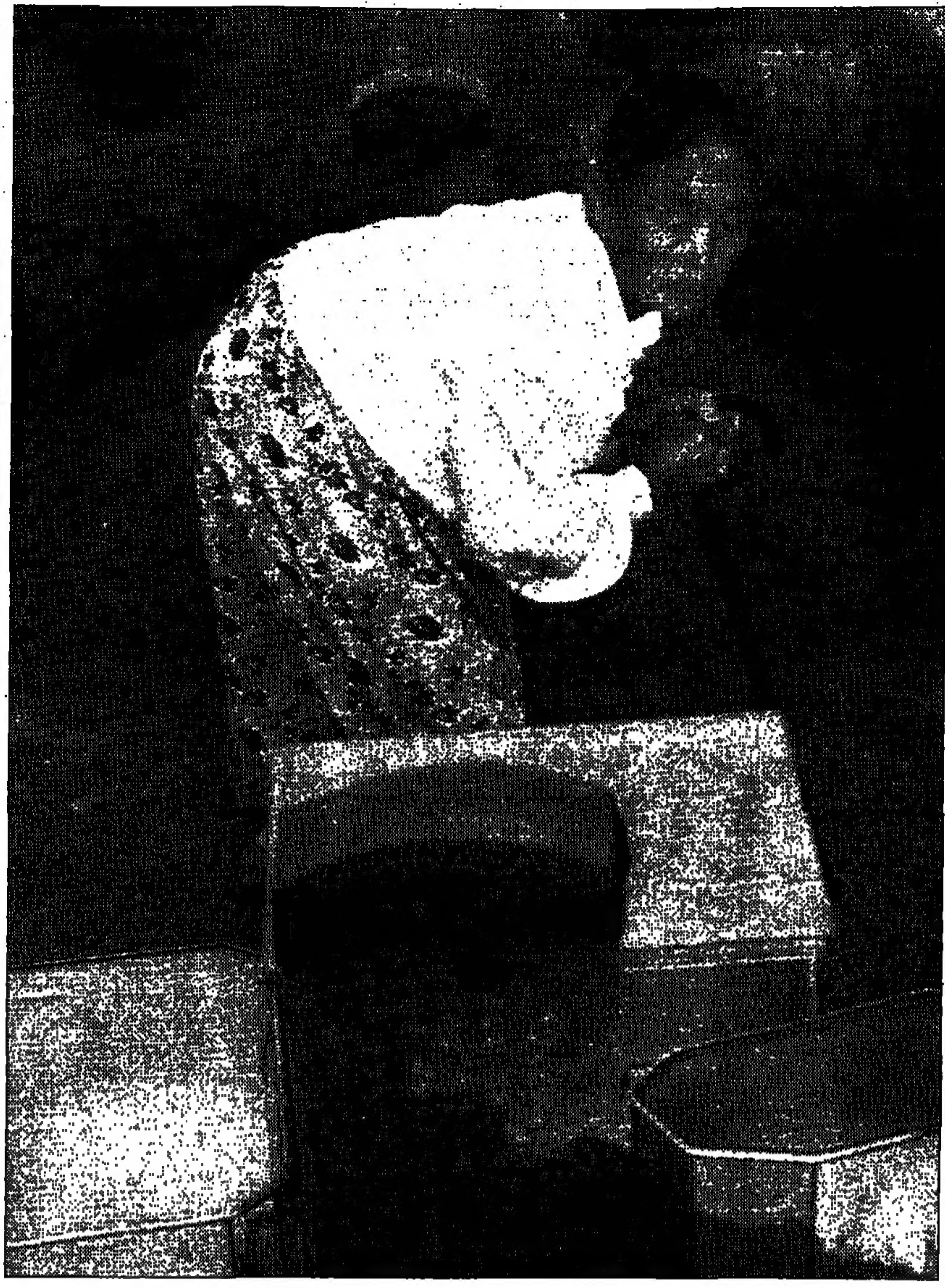
But Mr Kim, the first leader untainted by a military past, has gone beyond rhetoric and selective arrests to introduce reforms that make large-scale graft more difficult to hide. Particularly important is a ban on the use of aliases for bank accounts, and similar "real-name" reforms for property, a favourite source of investment for corrupt officials.

The relationship between business and government, the heart of South Korea's so-called economic miracle, is one of intimacy and deep resentment. Cementing their co-operation — or collusion — used to be the payoff, the "survival tax" which the Federation of Korean Industry has estimated took around 6 per cent of profits.

What will hold them together now is uncertain. The ruling New Korea Party offers its disastrous performance in local elections last year as proof that it no longer shakes down corporations.

But President Kim shows no inclination to give up any of the immense power that has accumulated in the Blue House. When the chairman of Samsung criticised Mr Kim's administration during a trip to China last year the company quickly found itself besieged by government regulators and denied loans.

Businessmen welcome not having to pay backhanders but are uneasy that the rules of the game can change so suddenly. "Every businessman in Korea wants to see the old system change. Why should anyone want to give money to bureaucrats?" says Lee Hahn-koo, head of the Daewoo Research Institute. "But we don't know what is safe any more because standards of conduct can be rejected at any time … Some people believe all politicians are corrupt. All that changes is the degree."



An elderly South Korean woman passes the grave of one of the victims of the Kwangju massacre. Prosecutor Lee Jong-chan (top) yesterday announced sedition charges against former presidents Roh Tae-woo (middle) and Chun Doo-hwan (bottom) for ordering the army to suppress the pro-democracy uprising in the southern city in 1980, in which up to 1,000 people died. Mr Roh and Mr Chun also face corruption charges MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL BARKER

Former Korean presidents face sedition charges over 1980 massacre

TWO former South Korean presidents, Roh Tae-woo and Chun Doo-hwan, were charged with sedition yesterday over a 1980 army massacre of democracy protesters in the city of Kwangju, prosecutors said.

It was the latest in a string of charges against the former heads of state.

Mr Chun and Mr Roh already face mutiny charges over the 1979 coup that propelled them to power. They also face corruption charges for amassing slush funds of hundreds of millions of pounds.

The brutal quelling of the popular uprising against military rule in the southwestern city and the secrecy over the event for many years is one of the most traumatic chapters in South Korean history.

"Chun, as the mastermind, and Roh … as a key player in various violence, mutiny and seditious activies, committed a crime of trampling on the constitution," a prosecution statement said.

Along with Mr Chun and Mr Roh, six former senior military officers were indicted on sedition charges.

About 200 people were killed by the official count when special forces stormed the city to end the revolt. Residents say up to 1,000 may have died.

The Kwangju rebellion erupted a day after the Chun-led military ordered the imposition of martial law across South Korea in May 1980.

In late December, prosecutors visited Kwangju. But they said they could not find evidence of more deaths, despite allegations that many bodies were buried in several unmarked sites.

The two former presidents face execution if convicted, although it is expected they will escape with jail terms.

Indian PM accused of bribe taking

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

THE corruption scandal that has already engulfed some of India's leading politicians in the run-up to April's general election yesterday crept closer to the prime minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao, after the opposition accused him of taking bribes from the wealthy businessman at the heart of the 680 million rupee (£12 million) affair.

The leader of the rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, Atal Behari Vajpayee, directly accused Mr Rao of accepting money from S. K. Jain to help finance the election campaign that brought the prime minister to power. Mr Jain is alleged to have kept detailed accounts of the 115 officials and politicians on his payroll.

The government dismissed the allegations, saying Mr Rao had not received any money from Mr Jain, nor had he authorised anyone else to receive money on his behalf.

The corruption scandal, which is still unfolding, is the largest in a decade and seems certain to have big repercussions for the election because of the size of the sums and the numbers of people allegedly involved. It follows a series of lesser scandals involving businessmen and politicians that has led to widespread disillusion about the probity of people in public life.

Mr Vajpayee quoted from Central Bureau of Investigation records of the final interrogation session of Mr Jain last March, in which the businessman said he met Mr Rao at least nine times and handed over money for the Congress (I) party, as well as direct payments to Mr Rao and party colleagues.

Mr Jain said his first payment of 500,000 rupees (£9,259) for Mr Rao's personal use and 5 million rupees for party funds was made in May 1991 following a meeting with the prime minister and a veteran Congress (I) leader.

"I paid 500,000 to Narasimha Rao at his residence at Moti Lal Nehru Marg. On or around May 27, 1991, I also paid 5 million to R. K. Dhawan for the party expenses," Mr Jain allegedly told police.

Mr Jain described other alleged meetings with Mr Rao after he became prime minister, and further payments to cover campaign expenses. He says he paid the money in expectation of winning a government contract to modernise a steel plant.

Except for the Communists, all the main parties have suffered in the Jain affair. However, the BJP, which had been planning to base its election challenge on the alleged corruption and ineptitude of the ruling Congress (I) has been particularly humiliated by the alleged implication of its party president, Lal Krishan Advani.

Mr Advani resigned from parliament last week, the first BJP casualty of a scandal that in a week has forced the resignation of three cabinet ministers and a leader of the leftwing Janata Dal party. Arjun Singh, who broke away from Mr Rao's Congress last May, has also allegedly been implicated.

> The affair seems certain to have big repercussions for the election

The BJP first accused Mr Rao of involvement in the scandal last week. Yesterday's allegations are expected to add to criticism that the prime minister's decision to sanction the corruption prosecution now is politically motivated.

Police first stumbled on the affair in 1991 with the discovery of payments to separatist militants and underworld figures. But it was only after inquiries from two journalists that it began to investigate payments to officials and politicians.

However, the government spokesman, S. Narendra, played down the importance of Mr Jain's confession, and accused police of mishandling the questioning. "Some of the interrogating officers had given him leading questions in an attempt to implicate everybody."

Samper shaken by drug claims

COLOMBIA'S president, Ernesto Samper, is under increasing pressure to resign in the wake of allegations by his former defence minister that he knew his 1994 campaign was financed by the Cali drugs cartel.

Fernando Botero, who has been confined to a military barracks since his resignation as defence minister last August on corruption charges arising from the campaign finance scandal, said on Monday night that he had been lying to give the president "an escape valve". He said he had now realised only the truth would "allow the country to move forward".

Mr Botero was Mr Samper's election campaign manager.

In a brief, televised response, Mr Samper described the accusations as "infamous". If any drug money had entered campaign coffers it had been "behind my back", he said.

In December, a parliamentary commission exonerated the Colombian leader of complicity in the scandal, which broke days after his election victory. However, opponents point out that most of the commission's members belong to the ruling Liberal Party (PL), and that more than half are themselves under investigation for drug cartel links.

Liberals and opposition Conservatives (PC) are among those calling for the president's resignation. "There is no other option," said a PL former justice minister, Enrique Parejo, "because the country now knows he is a liar."

The leader of the opposition, Senator Jaime Arias, is one of several politicians calling for the vice-president, Humberto de la Calle, to assume the presidency.

According to the former defence minister, Mr de la Calle had no knowledge of the campaign contributions, which were first revealed in a set of tapes made public after Mr Samper defeated the PC's Andrés Pastrana in a very close presidential election.

Mr Pastrana has consistently argued that his opponent took drug money. "It's not just that there was infiltration of the Samper campaign by drug traffickers," he said before the latest revelations. "It's worse than that — he [Samper] went to ask the Cali cartel for money."

In the early hours of yesterday, as security around the presidential palace was tightened, military leaders visited the president to assure him of their continued support.

During Mr Samper's presidency, much of which has been conducted under emergency laws, the influence of the already powerful armed forces has grown stronger.

Under strong pressure from Washington, the Samper administration has virtually dismantled the Cali cartel, putting its leaders behind bars. However, one of them, José Santacruz Londoño, caused deep embarrassment by escaping from a top-security jail earlier this month.

Mr Botero, the son of Latin America's best-known painter, had headed the campaign against the cartel, which was allegedly responsible for about 80 per cent of the world's supply of cocaine.

In his Monday interviews he said he first realised "strange, suspicious things were happening" in the 10 days before the election, but that it was not until he heard the so-called "narco-cassettes" that he was sure drug money had been accepted.

The president accused his former aide of "lying to save himself" and repeated that he would not resign.

In a letter published in yesterday's Colombian papers, Mr Botero said he had sent his two youngest children abroad because of fears for the family's safety.

● The Mexican daily newspaper Reforma said yesterday that men claiming to be goverment officials bought up virtually every copy of the paper in the resort of Acapulco on Sunday because of a report on corruption charges against the city's mayor.

Ernesto Samper: branded accusations as "infamous"

News in brief

Assassin tells Tel Aviv court he intended to end Yitzhak Rabin's rule, not his life

THE self-confessed assassin of Yitzhak Rabin told a Tel Aviv court yesterday that he had not intended to kill the Israeli prime minister, "only to pull him from the path he was following". *Derek Brown in Jerusalem writes.*

Yigal Amir, aged 25, a student and religious zealot, said that had he wanted to kill Rabin he would have shot him in the head. Instead, he aimed at the prime minister's spine, hoping to disable him.

"My intention was to shoot him in such a way that would prevent him from serving as prime minister, either disabling him, or if there was no choice, death," Mr Amir said.

He told earlier hearings that he shot Rabin to halt him giving "Jewish" land to the Palestinians.

Yesterday he said his action complied with *din rodef*, the Jewish religious rule that there is a moral obligation to stop, at any cost, any person posing a threat to society.

Mr Amir has yet to enter a formal plea. If convicted of premeditated murder, he faces life imprisonment. Manslaughter carries a sentence of up to 20 years.

A police officer who took him from the scene of the crime told the court that Mr Amir was anxious to know if the prime minister was dead. "When I told him Rabin was dead he said he was happy. He said 'Whoever harms Jews deserves to die'."

The trial resumes on Sunday.

George Burns 'not near death'

GEORGE BURNS, the legendary cigar-toting comic who turned 100 last weekend, is not close to death, contrary to a report in yesterday's New York Post, his manager said.

"He's doing as well as can be expected for a guy 100 years old," Irving Fein told a Los Angeles radio station. "He's the same as he's been for the last few weeks since he's had the flu."

Mr Fein had previously blamed flu for Mr Burns' failure to attend his birthday celebrations. He spent the day resting with his family at his Beverly Hills home, Mr Fein said.

New York Post columnist Cindy Adams wrote that Mr Burns was bed-ridden and unable to eat and had barely responded to two friends who visited him on his birthday.

"The truth of his condition is being kept quiet," Ms Adams wrote. "He is barely alive."

Mr Burns underwent brain surgery after a fall in 1994. — Agencies.

Unicef project to improve care of orphans in China

THE United Nations Children's Fund, Unicef, said yesterday it had reached agreement with China to start a programme to improve the care of orphans and disabled children in child welfare institutes.

In each of 30 provinces an existing institute will be improved to serve as a model and resource centre to train staff and develop rehabilitation and management skills.

A related project will concentrate on staff training.

The announcement made no mention of the recent report by New York-based Human Rights Watch/Asia alleging that China's state-run orphanages had allowed thousands of babies, many of them unwanted baby girls, to die from medical neglect and starvation. China has denied the charges.

A Unicef source said negotiations with China on the new scheme began about a year ago. The organisation said it was allocating $850,000 (£550,000) for the programme in 1996-97. — Reuter.

Murderer chooses to hang

DELAWARE prison authorities were preparing last night for the state's first hanging in half a century, *writes Ian Katz in New York.*

Billy Bailey, convicted of shooting dead an elderly couple in 1979, was due to mount the gallows shortly after midnight, becoming the third person hanged in the United States since capital punishment was restored in 1977.

Bailey, aged 49, chose hanging over lethal injection, the most widely used form of execution in the US.

"Billy's not the smartest person in the world but he understood when he was sentenced that he would be hung by the neck till dead and he feels very strongly that that's what should be done," said Anne Coleman, who has visited him regularly on death row.

"This film will prove to be the black women's Thelma and Louise. It shows how black women can survive the rough and tumble of relationships through friendships. At the end of the day no man can make you happy. You can only get to that place by yourself."

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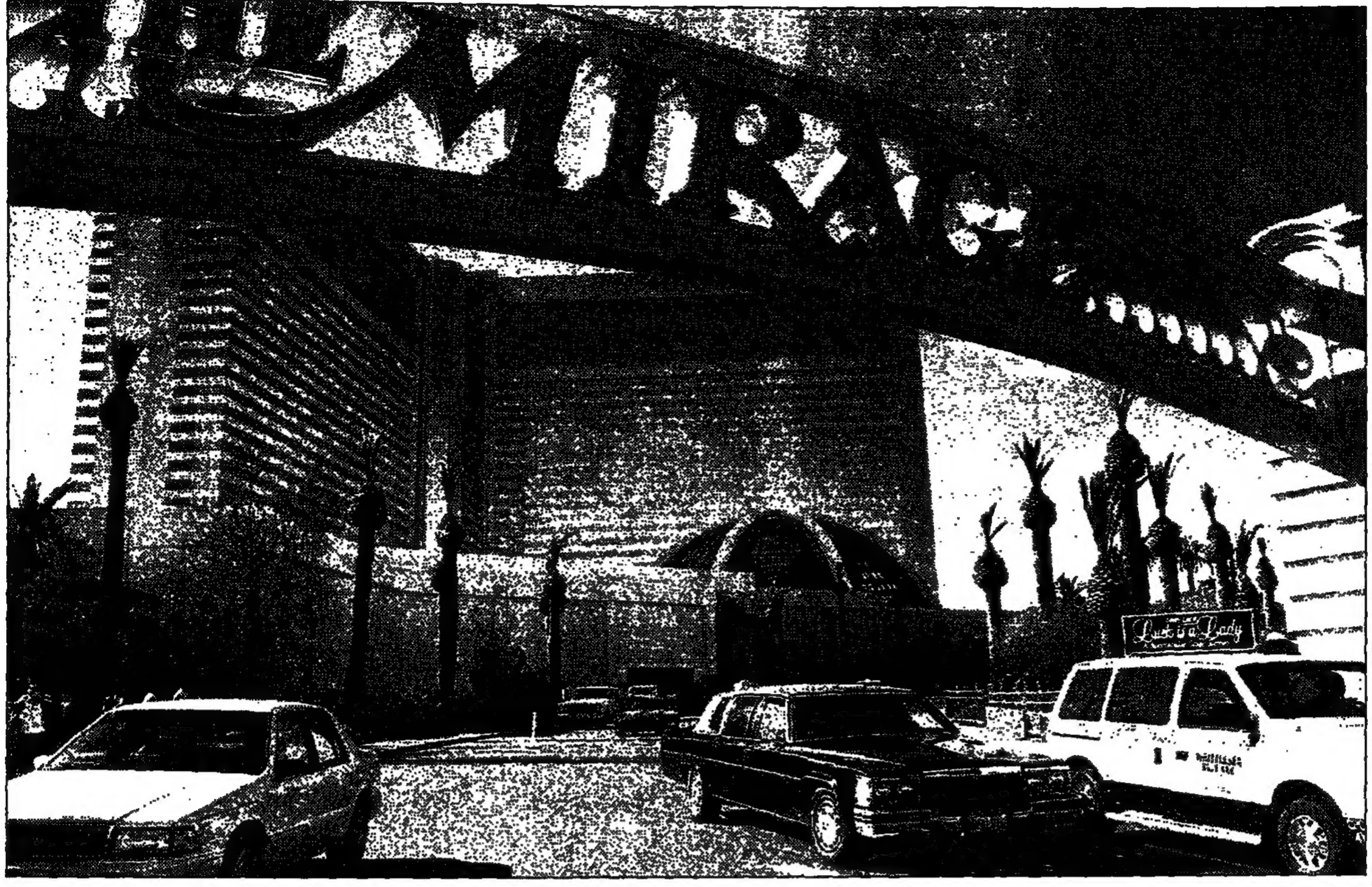

Magnetic attraction . . . Hotel casinos like the Mirage create the jobs that make Las Vegas America's fastest growing city PHOTOGRAPH: JACKY CHAPMAN

Fallout from the tables

Jonathan Freedland in Las Vegas finds the casino city spinning a model of fortified modern American suburbia across the desert sands

HOWARD HUGHES is long dead but his influence lives on in Las Vegas. The ghost of the eccentric multi-millionaire is taking it easy these days, not in the countless casinos and hotels he built on the Strip but in a pleasant "planned community" for newly-weds and pensioners called — after his grandmother — Summerlin.

It is one of dozens of estates filled with Mexican-style houses with adobe arches and crenellated terracotta roofs that are popping up all over Las Vegas.

Far away from the neon glitz, Summerlin was once waste land, bought by Hughes in his dying days. With characteristic foresight the old hermit sensed that Vegas would spread outward and his hunch has become a fact: it is now America's fastest growing city.

The expansion is relentless: 7,000 new people arrive each month, and 100 new jobs are created every day. Las Vegas issues twice as many residential building permits as its nearest rivals, Atlanta and Phoenix, handing out $7 million (£4.5 million) worth a day.

It is growing so fast — the population has more than doubled since 1980 to more than 1.1 million — that alone among American cities it has had to change its telephone book twice a year, just to keep up.

In the process it has been transformed from a place where Americans could go for a naughty weekend to a template for urban America: walled communities, cash-starved services, and a flight from the inner city.

Summerlin is concrete proof of the trend. Its ownership still contested by the 300 would-be heirs to the vast Hughes estate, it is a trim purpose-built settlement, a Milton Keynes in the desert.

It is composed of pseudo-villages with bucolic-sounding names: the Trails, the Crossing, the Pueblo. There is no litter and not a casino in sight. Summerlin is only a 20-minute drive from the heaving vice of Glitter Gulch, but it feels a lot further.

Joined to it is Sun City, a telling play on Las Vegas's erstwhile reputation as Sin City.

A "retirement village", its welcome sign warns visitors that they are "entering a golf-cart permissible community".

It has a civic centre, shops, a theatre, even a church and a synagogue. The whole thing is behind walls, and patrolled by private security guards.

Bill Thompson of the University of Nevada calls the phenomenon, not confined to Las Vegas, "fortress domesticity".

Together Summerlin and Sun City explain what has happened to Las Vegas. The prodigious growth of the hotel-casinos — the Strip now has nine of the world's 10 largest hotels — has brought in ten of thousands of workers. They need homes and schools for their children, and the suburbs have had to swell to accommodate them all. Summerlin alone has two private schools.

Sun City has been a magnet for pensioners from the east coast, the kind of "snowbirds" who previously turned Florida into a senior citizens' haven.

But the year-round sunshine is not the only lure. Ten thousand Californian over-65s moved to Las Vegas last year, drawn by Nevada's no-income-tax rule. Ultra-cheap house prices make the city even more attractive.

The influx of aged newcomers in particular has exerted a strain.

With no taxes, the only way to raise public revenue is through so-called bond issues, approved by referendum. But elderly voters keep rejecting requests for money for schools, parks — even police.

"Taxes Increased — Protests Needed!!" cries the headline on Link, Sun City's local paper.

"It's a real problem," says the mayor of Las Vegas, Jan Laverty Jones, re-elected with 72 per cent of the vote last year and something of a Democratic rising star.

"They have an attitude," she says of the Vegas senior population. "They feel they have paid enough and they don't want to pay any more."

Ms Jones is forced to turn to the casinos, which already pay half of Las Vegas's taxes. But she would rather not. She wishes that her city was more than a company town, dependent on the gaming industry alone.

The end of the cold war was a blow: the closure of the nuclear testing site in Nevada deprived the area of physicists and skilled workers. "If we're going to cope with the growth, we need to diversify the economy," she says.

That means new businesses. Sega, the video-games group, has moved from California, but enticing others can be difficult. Citibank relocated its credit-card processing plant to Las Vegas, but not before it had created a fictitious postal address — the Lakes - lest customers fear their cheques are being gambled away.

On top of it all, Las Vegas is in the desert, with no water of its own. Last month it devised a plan to take enough water from Lake Mead, Colorado, to supply a million new people.

But thirsty neighbouring states like Arizona object, claiming that Las Vegas is wasteful. The city itself thinks it will win the battle. After all, its luck has held so far.

DOLLARS
DOLLARS

Nice little earners . . . Gambling pays half the city's taxes. Income is tax free

Prostitutes cash in on Euro-grants

Stephen Bates in Brussels

WILLIAM Gladstone spent his free nights rescuing prostitutes from the streets of Victorian London. Little did he know that, had he lived just more than 100 years later, he could have got a Euro-grant for it.

The European Commission extended its moral sphere to some of the European Union's most put-upon citizens yesterday by announcing that it was giving grants to help prostitutes redeem themselves and become useful members of society.

The money — totalling just under £200,000 — will only benefit prostitutes in the Spanish port of Bilbao and the Austrian capital Vienna.

Organisations in those two cities had the foresight to apply for a one-off grant from a £5 million budget in the EU's social fund earmarked to help groups working with the poor and socially excluded.

The expenditure has now been blocked by Britain and Germany and will not be available again.

Padraig Flynn, the European commissioner in charge of social affairs, said: "There is a need in the member states for action to overcome social exclusion and also an abundance of creative ideas waiting to be put into practice, but often remaining blocked due to the lack of financial support."

Grants have gone to 86 groups in all, chosen from more than 2,000 applicants after the European Parliament approved the fund last year. All had to show they were helping disadvantaged groups, particularly immigrants and those in urban areas.

Successful applications range from a project in Salamanca to improve the personal development of disadvantaged youths through music and the arts, to a bicycle repair shop run by homeless people in Bologna.

Nine British projects are being funded. They include a scheme run by Manchester city council to help the "social integration of disaffected young people via their interests in arcades and computer games" and a debt line being set up by Wandsworth borough council to help ethnic minorities in their own languages.

The Norfolk adult education service will receive money to set up a family basic skills programme to help adults with literacy difficulties. Southwark will be able to fund a "pilot holistic approach" to overcoming social exclusion and poverty among ethnic minorities.

It was not clear last night how well-established the successful groups were or how closely the way they spent the money would be monitored. The successful bidders received the money they asked for.

The department in the commission dealing with the grant has only four people in it. They admitted they had not been able to vet the projects beyond asking governments whether they had come to public attention before. The applications were based on written submissions which were not checked for accuracy.

US seeks swift conclusion of nuclear test ban treaty

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

TALKS on reaching a long-awaited nuclear test ban treaty got off to a better than expected start in Geneva yesterday despite a clash over calls to link the treaty to pledges by the great powers to eliminate existing arsenals.

Agreement on resuming formal negotiations, on the first day of the 1996 session of the Conference on Disarmament, came after the United States warned that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty would be put at risk by countries trying to pursue a wider agenda on disarmament.

John Holum, head of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, read out a message from President Clinton saying the treaty was vital to contain the spread of nuclear weapons.

Mr Holum called for the concluding of negotiations by the end of the 10-week winter session. Diplomats are worried they will run out of time and fail to have the treaty ready by September's UN General Assembly session.

"Today's threat to the test ban wears a benign face," the US official told delegates from 38 countries. "It masquerades as even deeper devotion to arms control."

It was suggested the test ban should be linked to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

But he added: "Holding one important goal hostage for another is a sure way to fail at both."

Apart from the treaty's scope, other key issues still to be resolved are how to allow on-site inspections, how the treaty will come into force, and whether information from individual countries can be used to verify it.

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South Africa	£4.81	£7.05	32%
Hong Kong	£4.22	£6.56	36%
Japan	£4.34	£8.77	51%
Australia	£2.34	£5.23	55%
Brazil	£7.16	£9.94	28%
Canada	£1.75	£3.40	49%
Germany/France	£2.22	£2.59	14%
Israel	£6.69	£8.25	19%

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News in brief

China 'flexing naval might'

China is building up its military might in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait and Asian countries must help to persuade it to become a "reasonable neighbour", Winston Lord, a US assistant secretary of state, said yesterday.

China has criticised remarks by Baroness Thatcher about its growing military might. "Friends should not have such misunderstandings," a foreign ministry spokesman said. — Agencies.

Job-share offer

Turkey's caretaker prime minister, Tansu Ciller, yesterday offered to share the post with a rival party leader, Mesut Yilmaz, in an apparent breakthrough in bargaining for the formation of a conservative coalition. — Reuter.

Michelangelo find

Art historians have decided that a marble statue of a naked, curly-haired youth, which was bought at auction in 1902 and has been housed in a New York mansion, is by Michelangelo. — AP.

Haitian witch-hunt

Villagers in Corail, Haiti, clubbed to death five people they claimed were wizards responsible for the deaths of children, police said. — AP.

Internet rules

China's State Council has adopted undisclosed draft rules governing access to overseas computer information networks, in a bid to embrace the Internet but not its pornographic and political content. — Reuter.

Deals in the dark corridors of power

Commission European
Parliament European Council
European Union Council
Ministers
Commission

In the third of a four-part series, **Stephen Bates** looks at secret EU negotiations in the Council of Ministers

THAT the most important decision-making body in the European Union is also the most secretive is only to be expected. What is extraordinary is that it gets so little scrutiny or public criticism.

The Council of Ministers is the nearest the EU has to an executive arm, but as it consists of national ministers its members clearly have the opportunity to put a domestic gloss on its achievements. When British ministers moan about regulations coming from Brussels, it is the regulations they and their colleagues have passed that they are complaining about.

It is a curious displacement of political responsibility.

The flight paths to Brussels are full of ministers and officials shuttling in for meetings. There are regular ministerial gatherings and even more frequent conclaves of officials: rarely a week goes by without them.

The general affairs council discussing foreign affairs, at which Britain is represented by the Foreign Secretary, meets monthly, but there are also departmental councils — environment, trade, economic, agriculture and so forth — whose ministers can take executive action to change regulations, levy new costs and impose new laws if they wish. Grandest of all are the six-monthly summits of heads of government.

For all the Euro-sceptic complaints about Brussels, it is not in the commission but in the much grander council building round the corner that the real power to change things lies.

Reporting the council is a matter of long hours of tedium punctuated by a flurry of activity as spin doctors and advisers prepare the way for a ministerial arrival.

Briefing and counter-briefing takes place, the Germans say they are fed up with the British, the British express astonishment and say it is the French who are causing a hold-up.

Sometimes a minister gives an heroic account of what he told the council, or what he will tell the council, or even what he would have told the council if he had thought about it at the time. A mild demur may turn into a blazing row. Sometimes the accounts, if pieced together, may even bear an approximate relationship to the truth.

"I have not known any direct lies," says one who has sat in as an observer. "But there is some stretching of the truth about what has actually been achieved. You don't always recognise the reports as a correct version. But so long as the minister is happy, he is back home with his triumph in the first editions."

This is nothing compared to what is going on upstairs, where national representatives and commissioners are getting into huddles, squaring deals, reaching agreements, building majorities.

Franz Cermak, Austria's minister-counsellor, says: "There is deal-making all the time. A northern country will want to tighten up the rules on competition and a southern country will say 'we don't like that, but we'll support you if you will back us to get more regional funds'."

Sometimes deal-making becomes too Machiavellian and founders. No one could understand why Austria was so concerned recently about regulations to increase lorry sizes. It turned out to be worried that larger lorries would be unable to get through its mountain tunnels.

Even worse are the activities of two bodies which virtually never get reported.

Most secret and least accountable is K4, the committee which co-ordinates policing and the security services

Lurking behind the acronym Coreper — comité des représentants permanents — are the secretive weekly meetings of the ambassadors and senior officials which sort out the real work. These may be the most powerful ambassadors in the world.

Coreper-I deals with domestic issues; Coreper-II, attended by the ambassadors themselves, does foreign affairs, economics and the budget.

They pass items up for ministerial approval, but in the interstices there is room for a great deal of regulation approval: from ground-handling procedures at airports to adjustments to salmon import prices. It is technical stuff, often not worthy of headlines, but then, how do we know?

Most secret and least accountable of all is K4, the strangely named committee of interior ministry officials — including representatives of the Home Office — which meets to co-ordinate policing and the operations of security services.

There is a serious accountability problem here. The council is not required to release documents, reveal decisions or even give out voting figures to show how ministers and civil servants responded.

When the Guardian asked to see documents, it took 18 months and a ruling from the European Court of Justice to obtain them. Appended to the papers when they were released was a note saying the council did not feel itself obliged to release anything else in future.

As this is the executive at the heart of Europe, you might think it would show some concern for the public's alienation, but it does not. While other EU institutions agonise over freedom and accountability, the council is the one body which does not do so. And, since it is made up of ministers, it largely escapes sceptical questioning.

Secrecy is the bane of this sort of decision-making, but how do you negotiate in public?

If the EU is concerned about lack of public confidence in its decision-making process and its accountability shortfall, should it not do more things in public, so the citizen at least knows on what information choices have been made?

Neil Kinnock, the transport commissioner, has practical doubts. "If people want to see the council in action, I don't feel very strongly," he says, "but the contentious stuff would move — as it does now — out into the private meetings. A three-hour debate on transit permits from eastern Europe could be a good cure for insomnia. We could probably save the population its entire Mogadon bill . . ."

Next: Wielding Power without responsibility, the European Commission.

January 24 1996

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The affair seems
certain to have
big repercussions
for the election

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rug claims

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The right to choose

The problem is the choice forced on Ms Harman

SHOULD Harriet Harman resign for having sent her son Joe to an opted-out, selective state secondary school? In an editorial yesterday the Daily Mirror said that she should. Many Labour members and supporters will agree. They believe that her action is incompatible with her shadow cabinet status. Yesterday, moreover, revealed the damage which Ms Harman has done to the Labour Party. She presented John Major with his best question time for months. At the end the Conservatives were cock-a-hoop and Labour grim-faced. Today she will face a further ordeal by Tory barracking when she opens the Commons health debate. In the evening she will have a hard time from Labour MPs at the weekly meeting of the parliamentary party.

Would it not therefore be better for all concerned if Ms Harman resigned? We say no, it would not. She is right to tough it out, and the Labour leadership is right to support her. Here's why.

All parents have the right to do what they think is best for their children. Harriet Harman is no exception. As a parent she is entitled to choose to send her son to any school she can get him into. These are not our words. They are those of yesterday's Daily Mirror editorial, and we agree with them. But the Mirror goes on to say that a member of the shadow cabinet is not entitled to breach party policy or its fundamental philosophy and that therefore she should resign. In effect it is saying that in a conflict between parental duty and party policy, the party must be supreme. Think about that proposition. Is it a proper position for Labour to adopt? Surely not.

If Ms Harman had to resign for her action, Labour would be sending a powerful signal. It would be saying that it does not accept people's rights to do the best they can for their children. Ms Harman has not opted out of the state system. She has been faced, as all other parents of all classes are faced, with doing the best for her children in the given circumstances. Not in some hypothetical future circumstances, but the ones that exist here and now. In many parts of the country that creates no conflict. But in some it does. Is Labour entitled to deny her the right to choose? If so, it would be saying that it is not the party of aspiration. It would be cutting itself off not just from the middle-class but from all classes. It would not be a defensible position and Labour would rightly suffer for adopting it.

If Ms Harman does not resign, say her critics, she will continue to be used as a weapon to beat the Labour Party. That is true, though it also suggests Labour hasn't honed its education policy as well as it thought, But it is not Harriet Harman's fault that the state education system is so poor in the part of the country where she lives. Who has been in charge over the past 17 years: Labour or the Tories? Which party has squeezed state provision, allowed school fabric to deteriorate, diverted investment into the private and opted out sectors to the direct detriment of state schools, and presided over the most perceptible decline in state education and school behaviour this century? Which party educates its children in the private sector while professing to be a party of one nation?

The problem is not the choice that Ms Harman has made. The problem is the choice which she and others have been forced to make. People need to understand where the blame for that lies. No one in their right mind would want their children to travel long distances or to compete for decent schooling if it were readily available in their neighbourhood, as it should be but is not. The shame in this saga belongs to the Conservatives, not to Ms Harman. It is not she who should go, but the Tories.

A need for a better way to save

Pension reforms must not suffer from electoral short-termism

IT IS now time to stop talking about pension reform and start doing something. Yesterday's report by the broadly based Retirement Income Inquiry is not perfect but it does provide a good consensual framework for much needed changes. The basic pension — indexed to prices and not earnings — is totally inadequate. It provides a pension equivalent to only 15 per cent of average earnings — less than what poor people receive in income support. It will fall on present trends to only 9 per cent by 2030. Since, sadly, people aren't willing to pay more in taxes, other means must be found to finance the ever increasing cost of providing for retirement as demographic trends raise the proportion of pensioners to workers. Sir John Anson's report suggests a two-tier alternative: a basic state-funded "assured" pension would be topped up by a compulsory second tier for those in employment embracing existing occupational schemes and the discredited Serps (now providing pensions of only 10 per cent to those earning under £10,000). Contributions will probably need to be 10 per cent of salary to fund a pension of 50 per cent of a person's final earnings or more like 15 per cent if the pot were also used for other purposes like house purchase in order to make higher savings attractive to young people addicted to short-termism.

Sir John's proposals meet several essential requirements. They apply to everyone: they are compulsory and they recognise that the state pension is withering on the vine. But there may not be adequate provision for those out of work and it is doubtful whether savers will warm to a scheme in which the size of pensions won't be guaranteed as a fixed percentage of final salary, but geared instead to the success of investments on the stock market. However, the flood of extra pension contributions flowing into shares (already £600 billion or almost 90 per cent of GDP, as Peter Lilley reminds us) may make a buoyant stock market self-fulfilling.

Nothing can happen on this scale without unintended side effects. Pension funds will become an even more dominant force than they are now and will need to change their relationships with the companies they own on our behalf. Companies which don't run occupational schemes may contract-out work rather than join up. Pensions will always be expensive and there is a danger that the squeeze on disposable income implied by increased pension contributions will trigger inflationary wage claims as bargainers trade present income against dividend income held in trust for the future. It is a curious irony that what at one level is seen as short-termism — companies paying out ever higher dividends to City institutions — is from the point of view of pension fund members blissful long-termism. The worst short-termism of all would be if vital reforms like these got caught up in the myopic tax wars of an election. Don't bet on it.

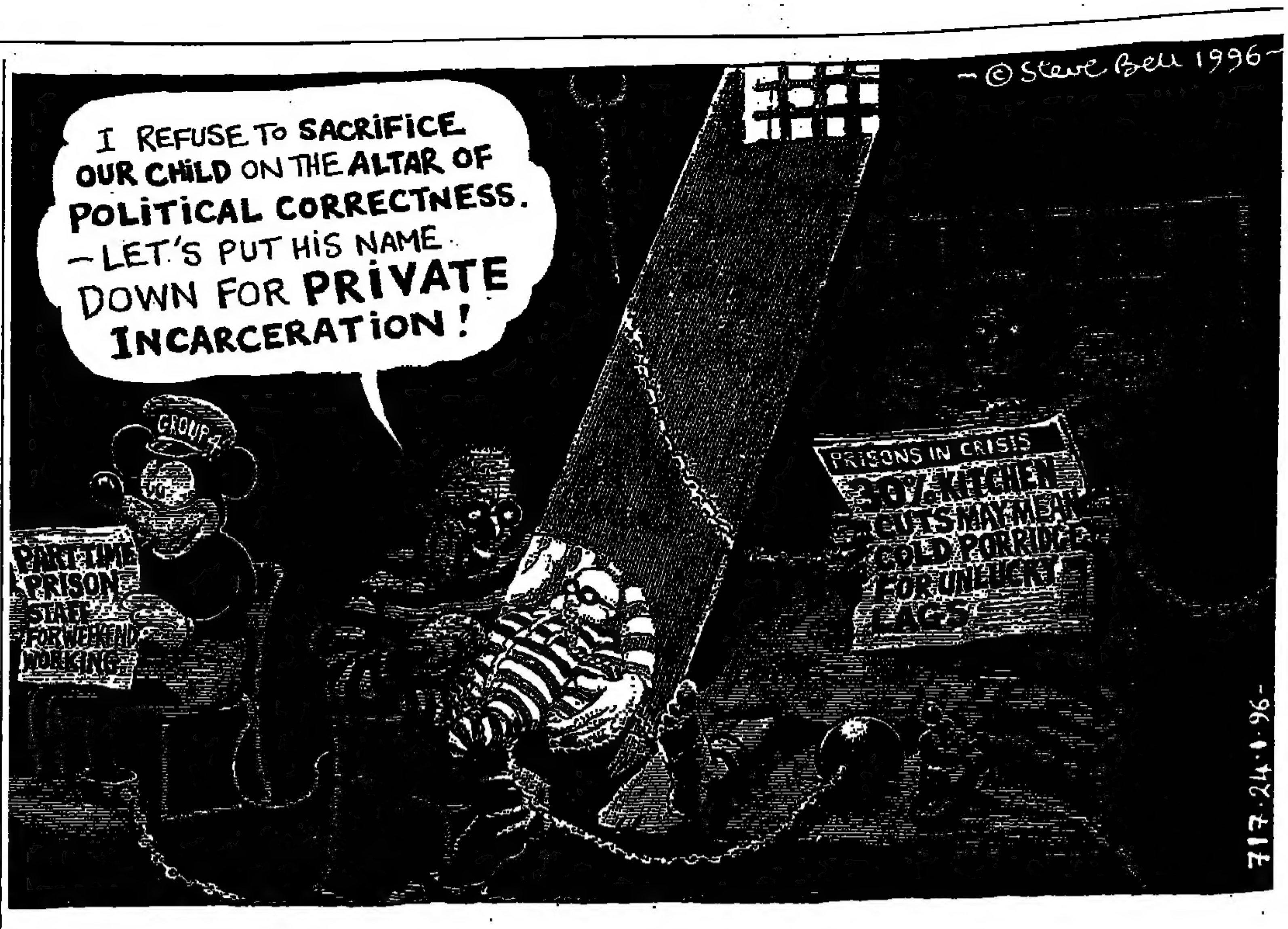
Exploiting the Hillary factor

Mrs Clinton will be a liability in the presidential battle

DERIDE Hillary Clinton, admire her, relish or deplore personal innuendo about her: America's first lady arouses strong views. Hillary Clinton was being demonised long before the summons to testify before a federal grand jury about her part in the arcane Whitewater saga. The unprecedented decision to subpoena her for a hearing on Friday overshadowed President Clinton's State of the Union speech delivered last night as the first shot in his, as yet undeclared, re-election campaign. Clinton can be in no doubt that his wife will be a major liability in the Presidential battle.

The Whitewater affair and its ramifications have long dogged both the Clintons. Their honesty as well as their financial dealings and personal relationships have been questioned. They have not helped themselves by their tardiness in answering for their actions, and by the mysterious disappearance and reappearance of key documents. Hillary is now catching most of the flak. A Special Prosecutor, Kenneth Starr was appointed and is behind the grand jury's subpoena to Mrs Clinton.

Unsurprisingly, the Republicans are not prepared to leave matters to the Special Prosecutor. The Republican chairman of the Senate's Whitewater Committee has just announced that he intends to continue his investigation indefinitely. At a disadvantage against President Clinton in the budget debate and saddled with Senator Dole as their leading Presidential candidate, the Republicans want to exploit the Hillary factor to the full. Just how far they can go will depend on the Grand Jury's reaction to her on Friday. If her testimony goes against her, then Bill Clinton's record as President will count for little, and the Republicans will enter the campaign with an advantage they do not deserve.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Letters to the Editor

It's been an education for Labour

THERE is a danger that, in all the furore surrounding Harriet Harman's ill-judged decision to send her son to a grammar school, we will lose sight of the key issues which challenge Labour's education policies and values.

Large numbers of parents have made practical commitments to the comprehensive system; these are the real embodiment of Labour's desire to link "opportunity Britain" with "responsibility Britain." It is the recognition of responsibilities to a wider community and society which go along with the responsibilities to your own child. Many of those who have positively "opted in" to local comprehensives also brought their own direct experience of the cruel divides which the selective system opened up within a single family.

Of course middle-class families have been able to buy their way around the comprehensive system — by moving into areas which produced a "wealth-selecting" local catchment. But many more families have chosen to value the more diverse base of communities in which their children had already developed ties and friendships. They also recognised the disproportionately positive influence that a dozen or more highly motivated parents can have on the whole ethos of a school. This "responsibility Britain" pre-dates Labour's affection for the phrase (let alone our ability to understand it). What really undermines "responsibility Britain" is structural faults in education funding which we refuse to address:

- There is a serious underfunding of education because we have lost the belief that it is worth the money educating all our children properly.
- "Formula funding" (on the basis of age bands) encourages schools to accept children with fewer problems and disadvantages, and reject those who might be a "cost drain". The Canadian approach to "needs"-weighted funding would redress this but would be the most direct confrontation for the "fend for yourself" legacy Labour will inherit from the Tories:
- Labour's critics are right to point to our inconsistencies in retaining the tax favouring of private education while condemning selection in the state system. Better to remove all tax subsidies to private education and redirect the financial advantages to schools which have remained within the comprehensive system.

The one unambiguous gain to come out of this debacle would be if Labour were to rewrite its education policies, not to deny people the choice of opting out, but to direct the financial resources back in.

Alan Simpson MP.
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA.

I SEE that Prof David Donnison has been lecturing Harriet Harman in loyalty to Labour ideals (Loyalty lecture for Harman, January 23), quoting himself as an example: "We sent our children to local comprehensive schools. To do otherwise would have been hypocrisy."

In September 1972, a governor of a London school admitted that she had succeeded in having her own son transferred away from it (see the Evening Standard of September 27, 1972). "I don't want to talk about it, because it is very embarrassing for me as a governor of Islington Green," she said. This governor was finding a way around the Labour ILEA policy of spreading children of different abilities around secondary schools. The incident was particularly embarrassing because both the governor and her husband were prominent members of Islington Labour Party. Their names? Professor and Mrs David Donnison.

Nigel Gann.
144 Obelisk Road, Woolston,
Southampton SO19 9DP.

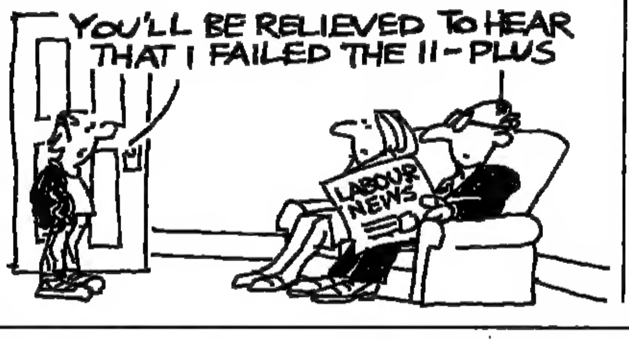
TORIES assert that they give "choice to all parents". What do they think selection means? In Southwark, it means that maintained secondary schools are deprived of more able pupils by the selection procedures of nearby independent and GM schools.

Labour policy of removing assisted places from independent schools and bringing the admissions policies of GM schools under LEA agreement would help reverse the trend of which Ms Harman is but a part, and let secondary schools become fully comprehensive.

Anne V Worsley.
Chair, Southwark
Education and Leisure Comm.,
Southwark Town Hall,
Peckham Road, London SE5.

ONLY last week 93 MPs voted to put us on European time, ending the use of GMT. Yet it has not been observed that these MPs have been arriving an hour early for appointments. Is it not the height of hypocrisy that they should continue to use GMT while seeking to deny this option to others?

R J Salisbury.
Berthlwyd, Tynygongl,
Ynys Mon LL74 8NS.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Justice stops at the Bar

RICHARD COLBEY is right to label advocates' immunity from negligence as "absurd" (Barristers set to pay for mistakes, January 20). Indeed, it should be scrapped completely.

What it means is that anyone who suffers through the negligence of a lawyer is denied justice. Judges, mostly drawn from the ranks of the Bar, have protected lawyers in general from the right to redress to which the providers of every other service are subject.

Colbey says that the new Bar Complaints Scheme will, to some extent, undo the absurdity of this rule. In a very few cases, perhaps. Lord Alexander's Bar Standards Review Body originally proposed that all complaints should be dealt with under the scheme. Yet immunity has survived.

In short the immunity rule not only denies anyone with a legitimate claim for negligence the right to seek redress through the courts. It also closes off the new Bar Complaints System.

It's a legal truism that no wrong should remain without a remedy. No group of professionals ought to recognise the basic consumer right to redress more readily than advocates. Yet so far, they have denied their clients that fundamental right, in the most brazen way.

Keith Richards.
Senior Lawyer,
Consumers' Association,
2 Marylebone Road,
London NW1 4DF.

COLBEY gives a rather rosy view of the Bar's newly-adopted complaints procedure. In saying it will be "relatively simple" to make a claim, he fails to consider how difficult it may be for clients with a grievance both to prove actual loss and that the service given fell "significantly below" what they could reasonably have expected — conditions added at the 11th hour. Such standards of proof are more appropriate for court than an informal complaints mechanism.

The scales are already weighted against complainants by barristers' immunity from criticism for court work, which the Bar has struggled to preserve. It is disappointing that Lord Alexander's original blueprint for handling complaints has been watered down by powerful, regressive lobbies within the profession.

Ruth Evans.
Director,
National Consumer Council,
20 Grosvenor Gardens,
London SW1W 0DH.

Of conversions

LORD Armstrong (Letters, January 19) advocates a spirited questioning of proposals to privatise Civil Service recruitment. He even invokes the statutory Latin quotation. The pauline conversion is remarkable. Inevitably one compares this reaction with his silence when other privatisations were forced on civil servants, far too often to the detriment of the taxpayer and the national interest: such as that of the skill centres where 20.000 training places were lost, staff made redundant, and bankruptcy prevailed.

Peter Lamb.
Vice President,
Public Services, Tax
and Commerce Union.
5 Great Suffolk Street,
London SE1 0NS.

I AM delighted to note at last an example of metrication being of benefit to the consumer. Last winter, fog reduced visibility to 50 or 100 yards. This year the metric system has given us an improvement in visibility of almost 10 per cent. Hooray for Europe etc etc.

Michael Jackson.
43 Seagry Road,
London E11 2NH.

NO ONE should be surprised at Fergie's money troubles. As the tabloids demonstrated, her financial adviser Johnny Bryan used methods probably not approved by the Securities and Investment Board.

Jolyon Jenkins.
20 Quebec Street,
Brighton BN2 2UZ.

WHILE the Church of England was revising its idea of an imaginary hell, in Bosnia a somewhat more tangible hell has been created by Serbian nationalists whose objectives and actions were encouraged and on occasions blessed by the Serbian Orthodox Church — which remains a full member of the World Council of Churches.

David Lovelace.
Norton Canon,
Hereford HR4 7BP.

Maxwell: jumping to conclusions

AS A Maxwell pensioner, I feel bound to comment on the media coverage of the trial of Kevin and Ian Maxwell. The public is left with the impression that the case should never have been brought and was a waste of public money. All of which dulls in their minds the conditions which allowed the scandal to take place.

When Robert Maxwell blazed the trail with "Pension Holidays", workers who contracted to pay 7.5 per cent of their salaries toward their old age were already set to lose. When the arrangement with Bishopsgate was announced, the stage was already set.

Lack of regulation enabled this to happen. Instead of crying "Stakeholder", perhaps Tony Blair should consider how to make the contract between employee and employer inviolable.

Harvey Smith.
22c Brondesbury Villas,
London NW6 6AA.

THE Guardian trailed (January 23) an allegation that Robert Maxwell was "money laundering for Gorbachev". I turned with interest to the tabloid section to find the evidence. The extract from Russell Davies's book has all of one and a half lines relating to the claim. He repeats what is generally believed — that, from within the KGB and parts of the Central Committee, money was being laundered from 1990.

And the evidence linking this to Gorbachev? Former KGB General Oleg "Kalugin believes that this directive came directly from Gorbachev".

Kalugin, by then no longer an insider, "believed" that money laundering was at Gorbachev's behest, although he was well aware of the extent to which a large part of the KGB and Central Committee apparatus fed misinformation to Gorbachev, was fundamentally opposed to him and sought to undermine him at every turn.

(Prof) Archie Brown.
St Antony's College,
Oxford OX2 6JF.

I NOTE (The Final Word: Maxwell on Maxwell, January 23) that you include part of an alleged statement to the BBC in 1994. I must admit I was not previously aware of any posthumous interviews carried out by the BBC with Maxwell, or indeed anyone else.

Phil Taylor.
University Department
of Anaesthesia.
Queen's Medical Centre,
Nottingham.

That's news

EDWARD Heath rightly remarks that people trust the BBC World Service (Arena, January 23). But until last week, while on a visit to a country where the television is firmly state-controlled, I had not realised its full effect. A fairly unpleasant incident had apparently taken place in the military-controlled cabinet. This was not reported on the evening's television news, nor the next evening's, but — admittedly in an "adjusted" form — it was after that.

The reason given by diplomats was that the item had appeared on the BBC World Service and people then agitated to know more, shaming the leadership into putting out some version — and therefore unwillingly keeping the matter running.

Lesley Abdela.
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Chechenia's fight for survival

MARTIN Woollacott calls for "rules for these half-wars", as in Chechenia — an unrealistic hope, I suspect (A war without rules, January 17). What is necessary is prevention of the conflicts in the first place. This will only be achieved when the international community takes seriously the rights of minorities forced into borders not of their choosing. World leaders largely ignored the plight of Chechenia at the start of the war and turned their favoured blind eye to ongoing atrocities once the bombing campaign had ceased. To highlight their cause, Chechens entered Budennovsk last year and recently Kizlyar. No one condones the taking of innocent hostages, but those who dismiss Chechens as mere terrorists should explain to them how they can achieve self-determination in a world that accepts Moscow's right to defend "citizens of Russia" by pulverising them in Grozny and outlying villages.

(Dr) George Hewitt.
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London WC1H 0XG.

A Country Diary

ON A damp, misty January afternoon I walk to my local park. When I arrive at a side gate to the park I am greeted by two signs. One tells me that this is a "countryside area for your enjoyment — please treat it with respect". The other sign tells me that the woods here are in poor condition and require extensive felling of trees. Work will begin on clearing soon. Even before entering the gate, my potential experience has been influenced by a troubling language and a conflicting set of values and attitudes. Although this place is used by local people as a public park, in fact it's a garden, it's the garden of Apley Castle. A variety of castles and manor houses have been here since 1327. The last was a large Georgian House which became derelict long before it was demolished in 1955. The garden continued to remain largely derelict, but nonetheless a garden, until the local authority took it over, opened it as a public park and began to "restore" it. Since restoration, most of which took place in the late 1980s, the place has been thrown into an identity crisis. If Apley is what remains of Georgian and Victorian gardens, and there has been a garden here since the 14th century, why is it now called "countryside"? The sign exhorts me to act in a very particular way towards this countryside. I am asked to "respect" it. What is it that I'm supposed to respect? Is countryside more worthy of respect than a derelict garden? What I have always respected about Apley is its wildness — the great tangle of uncontrolled garden plants behaving as they would in the wild, naturally regenerating scrub and woodland and old unmanaged trees that all provided a mosaic of habitats for wildlife. Leaving an abandoned garden to its own devices may not respect some vested interests but it would be a mark of respect for nature.

PAUL EVANS

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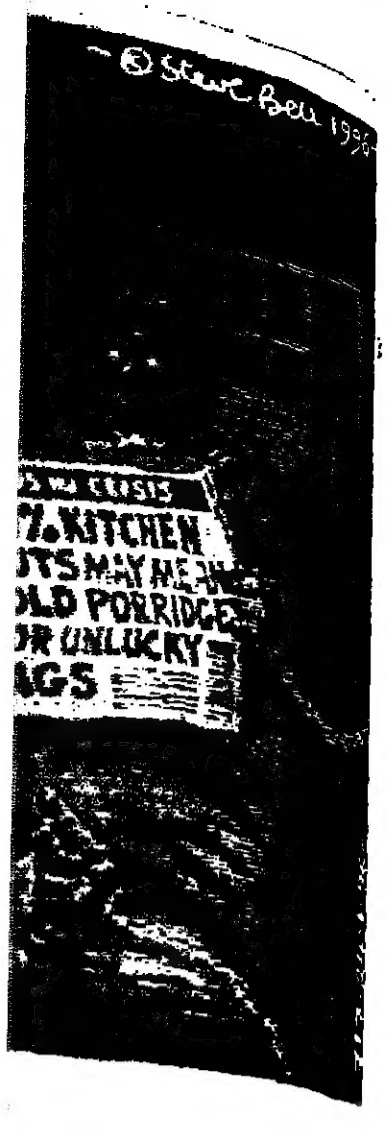


our Justice stops at the Bar

news

ry Diary

Diary

Matthew Norman

A LETTER has arrived from the lawyers of my old friend Kitty Kelley. The author of the most scandal-ridden unauthorised biographies of the age is deeply wounded, it suggests, because the Diary quoted from an unauthorised account of her own life. Furthermore, it insists that she is horrified at the idea that her forthcoming book about the royal family will contain any scandal. It seems very curious . . . until you suddenly realise that this is a joke, a hilarious demonstration of the heightened sense of self-irony for which Kitty, like so many Americans, is renowned. And so to today's extract from Poison Pen: The Unauthorised Biography Of Kitty Kelley, by George Carpozi, Jr. In 1970, she interviewed the recently widowed Senator Joe Biden. Mr Carpozi records that Kitty reported as though it were Biden's own remark an anti-Semitic punchline which the Senator used to illustrate a point about racial intolerance. "She was forced to write a retraction in a subsequent issue of the magazine . . . Kitty caused so much pain to Senator Biden that it was 15 years before he granted another interview."

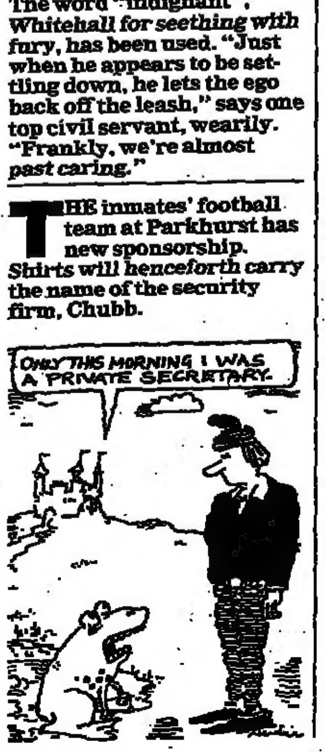
THIS acute gift for irony is shared, it seems, by all who write about royalty. If it seems odd to you that Andrew Morton's answer message directs "media enquiries" to his publisher, it is a self-parodic masterstroke the former Daily Star royal watcher has pulled before. Just before Diana: Her True Story was published, a Mail on Sunday hack went to Leeds to research a profile. He left his hotel number with Andrew's mother, suggesting she call to arrange an interview when she'd made sure Andrew didn't object. That evening, the hack picked up the phone to hear from an apparently furious Andrew a lecture on journalistic ethics. Asking to speak to his mother was, he said, "an appalling invasion of privacy". Magnificent.

WE know, of course, that it begins "So sorry", but what is the full seven-word sentence with which Diana made Tiggy Legge-Bourke — who hardly looks the consumptive type — swoon so dramatically in her chair? Now that "So sorry . . . mistook you for Ann Widdecombe" has been dismisssed, the mystery resumes. Suggestions are invited, with the usual prize for the best, and the unusual qualification that the lucky seven must not frighten our lawyers.

IT is always cheering to see high-street banks softening their image, and never more so than with children. Hats off, then, to NatWest, which has been doling out sticks of rock in local branches. The promotion has been a tremendous success, and the one tiny hitch seems almost too trifling to mention. But I suppose we must. "Due to a remote possibility that some sticks could be contaminated with metal fragments," says the advert all over national papers yesterday, "we are advising that this product should not be consumed . . ." Oh dear. Rumours that Coutts & Co are ruthlessly rounding up the defective stock and sending it to a certain royal client are thought to be unfounded.

THE Deputy Prime Minister, First Secretary of State, continues to endear himself to civil servants. Last night he went to the Civil Service College (where young mandarins are ripened). However, so many "distinguished guests" did he take to hear him speak about privatising Whitehall, that the civil servants themselves were shunted off to a side room to watch him on a TV screen. The word "indignant", Whitehall for seething with fury, has been used. "Just when he appears to be settling down, he lets the ego back off the leash," says one top civil servant, wearily. "Frankly, we're almost past caring."

THE inmates' football team at Parkhurst has new sponsorship. Shirts will henceforth carry the name of the security firm, Chubb.


ONLY THIS MORNING I WAS A PRIVATE SECRETARY.

Shock that threatens downtown America

Commentary

Will Hutton
in Chicago

PRESIDENT Clinton, in his State of the Union address last night, spoke to a Middle America that has never had it so tough. Men's wages, even for those with a college degree, have been falling in real terms for over 10 years. (It may be even rougher at the bottom of the pile — but generosity of spirit doesn't come readily when your own living standards are under such constant pressure.) It is this constituency that voted so enthusiastically for Newt Gingrich and the Republican Contract with America 15 months ago. Taxes, big government and welfare were at the heart of the American malaise, argued the Republicans — and tax cuts seem even more desirable when your own income is falling. Gingrich's trick was to appeal to self-interest and the public interest at the same time.

But even as Washington reverberates to the sound of Democratic President and Republican Congress arguing not over the merits of downsizing government, but rather on the pace of change and to what degree the poor should share the burden, there are subtle signs that the argument is moving on. The Americans are beginning to be alarmed at developments in their famed "flexible" labour market, and worried that inequality and under-employment may menace not merely the economy, but beyond it the good society and even the American dream.

After all, it was de Tocqueville who argued in the 1830s that it was the "equality of conditions" that underlay the stability and unity of American society, along with Americans' notions of social and political equality. Now, as American inequality climbs to new heights, sound heads — even on the right — are querying whether de Tocqueville's aphorism still holds. This degree of inequality may be unsustainable.

The American political debate is as yet resounding to the familiar tunes, with multi-millionaire publisher Steve Forbes challenging for the Republican presidential nomination, climbing the opinion polls in the New Hampshire primary by canvassing a regressive flat-rate 17 per cent income tax for all. But sooner or later reality breaks in on even the most ideological of positions.

Larry Lindsey used to work in the White House advising George Bush, and as an economist of Reaganite persuasions became a governor of the Federal Reserve Board — the US central bank — in 1991. The former Harvard professor holds impeccably conservative views about the merits of balanced budgets, the distorting impact of taxation and the need to shrink government — but his evidence to the House of Representives last month about the worrying trends in income inequality make gripping reading.

Mr Lindsey is worried, as a central banker, that too many low-income families are incurring too much credit-card debt. The credit card is the great badge of membership of American society, with the credit-card companies this year planning to market 2.7 billion cards to 250 million Americans — up from 2.1 billion last year. In the old days the credit card was the preserve of middle- and upper-income groups, but demand is rising dramatically from low-income Americans — both to have their badge of membership and to finance credit so as to maintain their standard of living as their incomes fall.

It's not the "democratisation" of credit that worries Lindsey, with the proportion of black and low-income households reporting credit-card debt nearly as high as white middle-income households; it's that the trends are unsustainable. Workers generally are receiving a lower share of national income than they used to; but low-income families' income is falling sharply as hourly-wage rates drop in real terms. Nor, with current tax and welfare policies, is there any end to the process in sight. Ultimately falling incomes will collide with rising debt, and servicing the credit-card debt will become impossible — a financial crisis waiting to be triggered by the next round of interest-rate increases which will one day come.

Lindsey dismisses the Gingrichian argument that workers are compensated in part by rising dividends and stock prices through their share holdings in mutual funds (American versions of unit trusts). Eighty per cent of households, says this Republican economist, receive no dividends at all; and 2.5 per cent of households receive three-quarters of all dividend payments. Most Americans live off their declining wage packets, and as the share of wages in national income falls towards 50 per cent from the 66.6 per cent it used to be in 1960, the growth of consumption is faltering as well.

Lindsey is suitably cautious, but his message is unmistakable. In the same way that the quadrupling of oil prices in the early 1970s represented an economic shock, so rising inequality is a form of economic shock today. It threatens financial stability and the sustainability of the US recovery alike.

BUT it doesn't stop there. American society is rocking from the fall in hourly-wage rates for unskilled men and the accompanying disguised unemployment — MIT's Professor Lester Thurow reckons that true unemployment is nearer 14 per cent than the official 6 per cent. Hourly wage rates of $5 (£3.30) or less do not offer even subsistence diets and rents; but that is the rate for more than 10 per cent of US jobs. With 2 million extra to join their numbers as the Gingrichian welfare "reforms" bite, US economists estimate that wages at the bottom will fall by up to another 15 per cent.

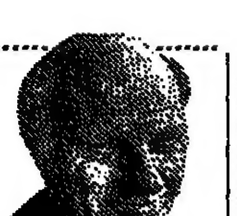
But in desperation the badly paid are leaving the labour market altogether, stealing and dealing in drugs just to survive. One third of all American blacks between the ages of 18 and 30 are now either in prison, awaiting trial or under bail. This is close to an urban hell.

Here in Chicago a group of researchers from the local universities has established that there are four job-seekers for every job opening in Illinois — and that only 4 per cent of the jobs on offer would allow a welfare recipient with children to provide for basic family needs. In Chicago alone, a city of 3 million, wages are so low and welfare so threadbare that 80,000 individuals cannot pay rents even for the worst housing, and with public housing being phased out, there is no option but to live on the street. If reproduced in Britain this would imply 1.5 million living rough.

Yet this is the world that John Redwood, in Washington on Monday to ally his Conservative 2000 think-tank with the Gingrichian Progress and Freedom Foundation, invites us to emulate. There may be powerful forces — international competition, the pressure from the financial system for ever higher returns, new technologies that compel corporate "downsizing" and "delayering" — that are generating these trends, but that raises questions. Even if efforts to modify them are condemned to fail, itself a contestable proposition, it is not true that nothing can be done to alleviate the results.

For something must be done. From one window in my room you can see downtown Chicago, resplendent in its skyscraping affluence and self-confidence; from another there is the growing urban wilderness of South Chicago. The gangrene of violence and decay will engulf even the downtown area one day. Conservatives are coming to recognise this, and also that redress will involve extra taxation and collective effort. The social questions of redistribution are about to re-enter American politics even at the zenith of the right's success. They will surely cross the Atlantic too.

A jug or two overflow for Orator Hunt



David McKie

THE MUSEUM in Devizes, Wiltshire, has been soliciting contributions to help it buy a commemorative jug celebrating Henry Hunt — the white-hatted radical leader Orator Hunt, whose attempted arrest led to Peterloo. Hunt was a local lad: born not far off in Upavon, he married into Devizes and cut his radical teeth in Wiltshire. The jug is on show in the foyer. On the front is a portrait of Hunt; who looks rather less prepossessing than one might have expected, perhaps because his quiff is a bit like Michael Portillo's. On the back is one of the verses which used to be sung about him: "May the rose of England never blow/ Nor the thistle of Scotland never grow/ Nor the harp of Ireland never play/ Til Henry Hunt has won the day."

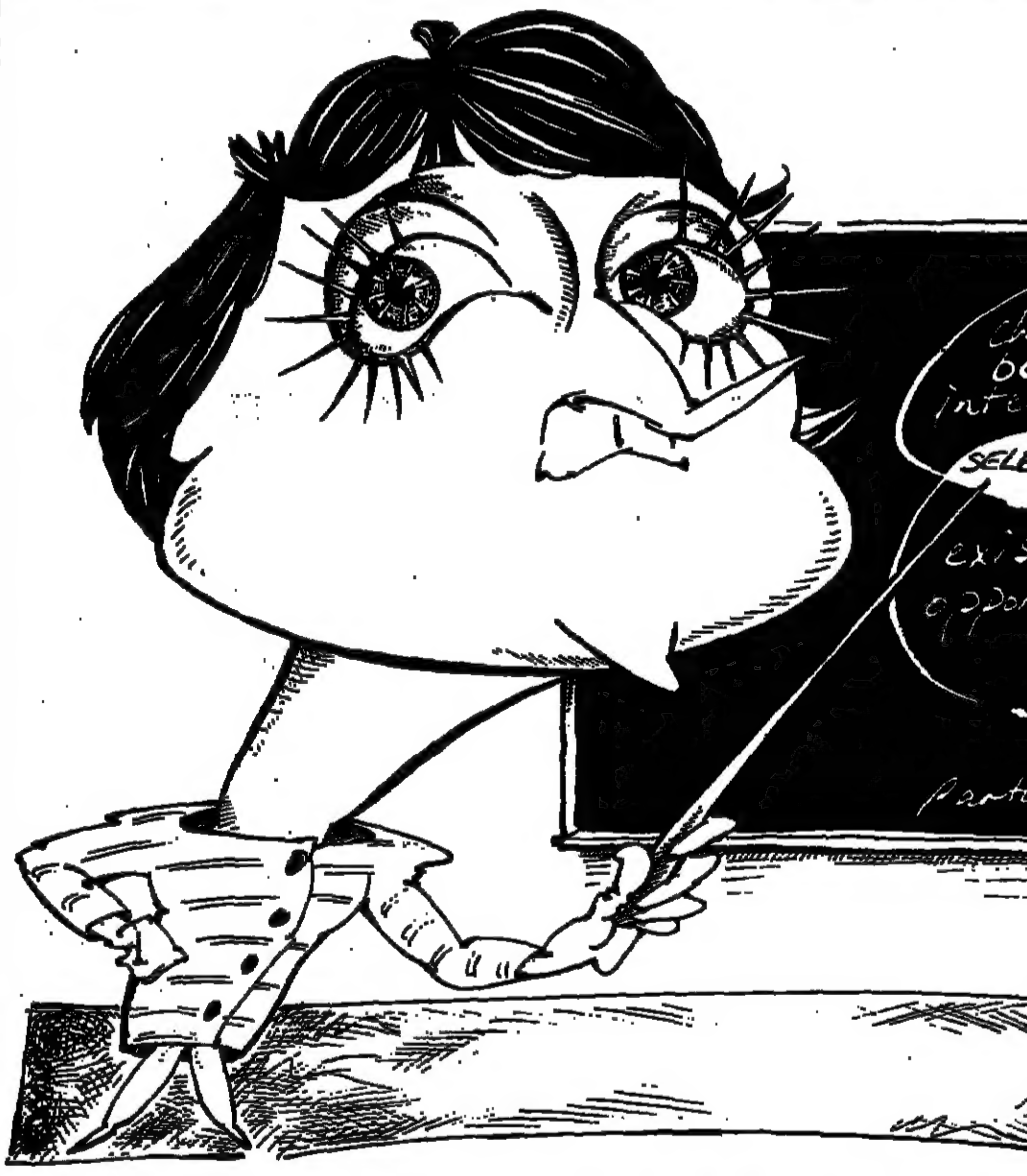
Surprising to find this enthusiasm for him in demure Devizes, since few have much to say for him nowadays. Even EP Thompson's Making Of The English Working Class, which rarely leaves a working class radicalism unsaluted, is decidedly cool. That's in line with the picture of Hunt that comes through in the writings of Samuel Bamford, the Middleton weaver, whose Passages In The Life Of A Radical is one of the indispensable texts for those times. Bamford didn't dispute Hunt's devotion to radical causes — above all, his conviction that you couldn't change a rotten society or rescue a class in distress without constitutional change — but he grew in time to suspect that it played a poor second to Hunt's devotion to himself. He describes, for instance, Hunt's triumphant progress to Manchester on his release from Lancaster prison, continually doffing his hat and bowing, then turning to curse his henchman Moorhouse whenever the cheers died away: "Why don't you shout, man? Why don't you shout? Give them the 'hip'! — you, don't you see they're fagging[sic]?"

He was also seen, and not only by Bamford, as deeply untrustworthy: not least in Devizes, where having married the daughter of the innkeeper at the Bear — partly, it was suspected, to spite his father — he deserted her and her three young children for a married woman called Vince. Bamford records with disgust an incident in the trial of the Peterloo 10 (one had by now been cleared) at York in March 1820, when Hunt declared himself affronted at prosecution attempts to associate him with the ultra-Radical Richard Carlile, a man known for irreligion. "Good God!" the Orator cried. "It is not enough to charge us with crimes against our fellow men, but that also we must be designated as infidels against our religion, and our God?" Tears, says Bamford, coursed down his cheeks as he spoke. You'd never have thought that Hunt and Carlile had travelled to the meeting on St Peter's Fields together.

Bamford begins (or so he attests) with a deep admiration for Hunt; by the end of his book he makes the Orator sound like a shyster. Imprisoned in Ilchester Gaol for his part in Peterloo, Hunt composed three volumes of self-serving memoirs, which a note of him in the DNB suggests may have done him more harm than the testimonies of his enemies. He even announced the formation of an order of knighthood, to be supervised by himself: the Order of St Henry of Ilchester.

One pauses, therefore, trying to decide whether Hunt deserves Devizes's tribute. But of course he does: simply because the power of his oratory — dependent though it was on catchpenny devices like maudlin tributes to his own untaintable integrity — brought hope to the working poor at a time of despair, and galvanised their support for a noble cause. To say that is not to accept the whole of the spirited case made for him in John Belchem's 1985 biography: to buy that, you have to write off not just Samuel Bamford — a renegade, conveniently glossing over his own apostasy — and Francis Place — a tendentious temporiser — but William Cobbett and Samuel Romilly and a great many others who differed from Hunt.

YET great popular movements need popular heroes to focus and inspire them, and even Place conceded that the working class movement for parliamentary and constitutional change needed Hunt. After Hunt's death, in 1835, a memorial was erected in the Ancoats district of Manchester. Fifty years later, it had fallen into such disrepair that it was pulled down. In its place, he was given a plaque in the Manchester Reform Club, unveiled by the Guardian editor and former Liberal MP, CP Scott. That was the ultimate irony: a radical agitator who despaired of the weak irresolution of liberals, who attacked the Reform Bills of 1831-32 as "mixty-maxty bodge-podge" where nothing but universal suffrage would do, commemorated in one of liberalism's most respectable and well-heeled redoubts. Devizes Museum isn't exactly a temple of Bennery either, but they've got the £200. The jug is safe and they will now be celebrating — except, perhaps, at the Bear.



Why I won't resign

Harriet Harman explains to **Patrick Wintour** why she and her husband made the controversial decision to send their son to a selective grammar school 10 miles from home

AT THE start of this term my husband Jack and I, like tens of thousands of parents up and down the country, had a child due to transfer from junior to secondary school. We had to make a choice about where he was to go. Living in an inner-city area of London, we were not in the situation familiar to someone living in a small town with one school. There was never a certainty about one school; there was always a choice.

The choice I am referring to is not the Tory choice, but one resulting from the fact that the Inner London Education Area covered a huge area stretching from Hounslow to Tower Hamlets. Secondly, there has always been a tradition of inner-city kids going to outer-London boroughs, as well as going across London. These are well-established patterns, reflected in the fact that the majority of children born in my borough of Southwark are educated outside the borough. Many of them go to Lewisham or to other local boroughs.

That was the context in which Jack and I sat down to make a decision about our son Joe, just like tens of thousands of other parents around the country — knowing our child, knowing his needs, knowing the local schools. That is what parents do, all parents. They make decisions in the best interests of their children. That is the iron law of parenting. It is a basic human instinct.

I do not favour selection. I fully support Labour's plans, set out by our education spokesman David Blunkett. I would prefer the school not to be selective and would be happy if it ceased to be selective — although I accept that this would be a decision for the parents as a whole.

I fully understand why people feel so strongly about my decision; I feared it would be controversial, though it was not easy to predict that choosing the right school for our child would cause this storm.

People accuse me of being a hypocrite or of operating double standards. But Labour did not create the system in which we as parents are making our choice. It is the miserable system that the Tories have left us with. Many parents are dissatisfied with this system. It confronts them with difficult choices — and that is why so many parents are looking to Labour to change the system. What we did as parents was make a choice in the context of the system as it is — but Labour does not seek power to run the system as it is. Labour needs to get into government to change the education system.

I am not saying that I have put my interests as a parent above the interests of my party. There are two distinct interests. There are decisions that you take when in government and there are decisions that you take in the here and now as a parent.

Nothing I have done leaves me out of line with Labour education policy. Nor should it be seen as a stalking horse for a policy change. It is about our making a decision as parents for our child.

David Blunkett is patently committed to improving educational opportunities for everyone. He, like me, believes that an education system which creams off 25 per cent of children and writes off 75 per cent is not the way to provide educational excellence and opportunity for everyone. David has set out the most important programme for Labour in government to raise standards in all our schools, so that every child, no matter where they go to school, can get an excellent education. His whole programme of action is designed to improve standards in the bulk of schools which are not grammar schools, including reducing class sizes by abolishing the Assisted Places Scheme.

I also support him in saying, in relation to the 160 or so historic grammar schools, that there will not be a change of admissions policy without the consent of the parents and prospective parents in a ballot. I do not want an extension of grammar schools; I am opposed to returning to the 11-plus. It is a contradiction in terms to say that you want excellence and opportunity for all, and you then write off 75 per cent.

Some people claim that I am damaging the interests of Southwark children, or creating social division by not sending my son to the local comprehensive; but I believe passionately that you cannot use one child as a piece of social engineering. Nor should one child be turned into a symbol. I am not prepared for my son to be turned into a proxy for the Labour manifesto. It is simply not right to use your child for political purposes or to advance your political career. It is right to make the proper choice for your child — a choice that is available on equal terms for all children in Southwark, many of whom can and do go to this school. Moreover, St Olave's, the grammar school to which my son is going, is a state school. There has been huge controversy over what what I have done. People feel so passionately about the chances for their children; people also feel passionately about the need for Labour to improve educational standards.

Some people argue I could have avoided this problem by sending our second son to the Oratory, the grant-maintained school to which we sent out first son. It is not unusual for children not to go the same school. Sometimes there is a choice that suits the whole family, and sometimes there is a choice that suits one but not the other. That is not to imply a criticism of any school. It is just sometimes that one school is right for one child and not for another. Schools are different; children are different. As a parent you have to put the two together. That is the same story for hundreds of thousands of parents.

It is also suggested I could have perhaps avoided this problem perhaps if I had moved out of the area and out of my constituency borough. Some people who own their own home do move to be closer to better schools. I do not criticise them for doing this, but they should not have to do it. All schools should be good enough and it's unfair on those who cannot afford to move.

Finally, I have to say I had a flood of correspondence, some wrongly fearing that this is the start of a change in our policy to selection; and some, very movingly, saying that, like you, we had to make a difficult choice and we understand what you are doing.

I want to do three things with my life. I want to be a good mother to my children. I want to be a good representative to my constituents. I want to be part of a government that changes Britian for the better. There is no contradiction between that, and that there must not be. For that reason, I will not be resigning.

> 'I am not prepared for my son to be turned into a proxy for the Labour manifesto. It is simply not right to use your child for political purposes or to advance your political career'

Harriet Harman is Labour's health spokeswoman

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Norman MacCaig

Belief in an ordinary happiness

IT WAS a boyhood holiday on Scalpay in the Outer Hebrides that helped give Norman MacCaig, who has died aged 85, the love of the Western Highlands which proved so fruitful in his poetry. His mother, a Gaelic speaker, came from Scalpay, his father from Dumfriesshire.

Educated at Edinburgh's Royal High School and the University of Edinburgh, where he took a degree in classics, MacCaig worked as a primary schoolteacher for more than 30 years, his promotion blocked by those who regarded his conscientious objection during the second world war, and consequent incarceration in Wormwood Scrubs, as unseemly.

A spell as fellow in creative writing at Edinburgh University in 1967-69 was followed by a readership in poetry at the University of Stirling from 1972 to 1977. Among many awards which came with increasing recognition were the OBE in 1979 and the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1986. His Collected Poems came out in 1985 (revised edition, 1990).

MacCaig's earliest poetry, later totally disowned by him, appeared under the wild auspices of the New Apocalypse in the forties, and his long search for greater lucidity meant that his mature work began to be published only in 1955 with Riding Lights. It continued through a regular succession of many volumes, almost exclusively of short poems, which were highly praised for their wit and humour, their extraordinary command of metaphor and simile, their sympathetic and accurate observation of all nature's creatures, and the mixture of scorn and compassion that informs such a fine poem as Assisi.

The tag "metaphysical", which he himself rather disliked, was often applied to him, and an admiration for Donne, Yeats, and Wallace Stevens can be traced. He used English, not Scots, and his great friend Hugh MacDiarmid, whom he loved as a man, did not influence him as a writer.

The main developments in his poetry were a move from metre- and rhyme-free verse in the sixties, and a certain paring down of imagery in his later work, where as he said he was "growing, as I get older, to hate metaphors" — approaching at times the minimalism of East European poets like Herbert and Holub, both of whom he admired.

A more personal and vulnerable note, accompanying such subjects as the death of friends, began to qualify the celebratory delight and playfulness which had characterised much of his work.

Although he wrote a long poem for television, A Man in Assynt, which expressed strong views of Highland depopulation and wealthy absentee lairds, he distrusted, in general, the rhetoric and abstractions of politics. He voted for the Scottish National party "without enthusiasm" and thought of himself as a realist, or more strictly perhaps a man of reason, hating cruelty and oppression but unwilling to go along with any large claims or theories or movements for the bettering of the human condition.

Sometimes blamed for an absence of commitment, for dallying with collies and plovers while regimes heaved in turmoil, he defended himself by saying that in dark times there was all the more value in not writing of horrors but rather of delights and pleasures as steady perception of the possibility of ordinary happiness.

If his marked resistance to ideals and visions was a limitation for his writing, it was part and parcel of his clear-sighted and essentially modest claim for what poetry could do — help us to "resist stock responses" and to "have shrewd nose for the fake, the inflated, the imprecise and the dishonest".

MacCaig had a considerable influence on younger poets in Scotland, both from the quality of his work and from the popularity of his public readings; anyone who heard him read would find it hard not to hear that voice in his printed poems. He had a great love of music, which he regarded as "the finest of the arts", and was a hospitable and companionable man who nevertheless retained a certain privacy and reticence. He could be formidable, as interviewers who had not done their homework found to their cost, but a twinkle in eyes or voice was never very far away.

His wife, Isabel, whom he married in 1940 and who worked as a lexicographer, died in 1990; there are a son and daughter.

Edwin Morgan

Norman MacCaig, poet, born November 14, 1910; died January 23, 1996

Norman MacCaig . . . a marked resistance to ideals and visions

A poem by Norman MacCaig

London to Edinburgh

I'm waiting for the moment
when the train crosses the Border
and home creeps closer
at seventy miles an hour.

I dismiss the last four days
and their friendly strangers
into the past
that grows bigger every minute.

The train sounds urgent as I am,
it says home and home and home.
I light a cigarette
and sit smiling in the corner.

Scotland, I rush towards you
into my future that,
every minute,
grows smaller and smaller.

For Norman MacCaig by Ted Hughes

From the later fifties, when I first met his poems in magazines, Norman MacCaig's poetry has always been important for me. Looking around at the poetry written in these islands since then, it seems clear that he has been important for quite a few others. In my own case, I was not only attracted to what he wrote, for its own sake — of all the UK poets then alive, his was the only work in which I found stylistic clues for my own way forward. On top of that I saw clues there for what I actually had to say. In general, it seems to me his influence on younger poets has been pervasive and positive. And it continues. Whenever I meet his poems, I'm always struck by their undated freshness, everything about them as alive, as new and essential, as ever. When you re-read them after a long time, poems you had thought were the last word in beauty, skill and efficiency have that startling knack of seeming even better than you remember them. Perhaps that means their career is only just beginning.

From: Norman MacCaig: A Celebration, edited by Joy Hendry and presented to the poet on his 85th birthday last year

Letter

Liz Shorrocks writes: Ronald Segal's tribute to Harold Wolpe *(Obituary, January 22)* missed out his time at Bradford University in the mid-sixties where he was a popular and riveting lecturer. The leftwing student body at the time was involved in a lengthy campaign against racists who were standing for local council elections and Harold and Anne-Marie's home was a haven — the door was always open, everyone was welcomed and Harold would listen patiently to our tactics, offering advice and support. There was always food — especially Harold's excellent home-made hummous and all he asked was for us to chase their aptly named dog Amandla round the garden to get her in at night! His warmth, friendship and political inspiration will not be forgotten.

Another Day

January 24, 1941: The PM took Mr Hopkins [Harry L., Roosevelt's confidant and Secretary for Commerce] to see the batteries at Dover . . . At dinner Hopkins said how impressed he had been to see when dining with Bevin, Morrison and Sir Andrew Duncan, on what friendly and familiar terms a great industrialist could be with Labour leaders. Such a thing could not happen in America. Hopkins told the PM that during the afternoon in Dover he had heard one workman say to another, as Winston passed, "There goes the bloody British Empire." Winston's face wreathed itself in smiles and, turning to me, he lisped, *"Very* nice." *I don't think anything has given him such pleasure for a long time.* *John Colville, The Fringes of Power. Downing Street Diaries. vol 1. Sceptre, 1986.*

Birthdays

Nora Beloff, journalist and writer, 77; **Ernest Borgnine**, film actor, 79; **Neil Diamond**, singer, songwriter, 55; **Bamber Gascoigne**, author, broadcaster, quizmaster, 61; **Jules Holland**, broadcaster, 38; **Nastassja Kinski**, actress, 35; **Desmond Morris**, zoologist, 68; **Dr Ian Oliver**, chief constable, Grampian, 56; **Eduard Shevardnadze**, president of Georgia, 68; **The Most Rev John Aloysius Ward**, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cardiff, 68; **Frederick 'Tiny' Winters**, bass player, raconteur, 87.

Death Notices

BOARD, John Norman FCA on 20th January after cruel illness. Dear husband of Wendy and father of Rebecca and Belinda. Private family committal but any donation in John's memory to Dartmouth Hospital League of Friends, c/o Ken Ferris, Perring Funeral Services, 64 Southford Road, Dartmouth, South Devon.

BURT, Norman Charles, on January 18th 1996 aged 85 years. Old Pauline (1924-1929). Beloved friend, sadly missed. Service is to be held at St. Paul's, Raleigh Road, Richmond on Thursday 25th January at 11.15, followed by cremation at Mortlake at 12.00 noon. Flowers or if preferred donations to the Renal Research Fund at Charing Cross Hospital c/o T H Sanders & Sons, 447 Upper Richmond Road West, East Sheen, SW14 7PR. Tel: 0181 876 4673.

HORROBIN, (James). On January 20th 1996 aged 83 years of Bramhall Cheshire and formerly of Llandudno. Donations if desired to Methodist Homes For The Aged. Enquiries to Ben Lloyd (F.D.) Ltd. TEL: 0161 485 3135 or 01625 872717.

KINGSFORD. On 20th January 1996, suddenly Anthony Lethbridge (Tony) Kingsford, of Bilbrook, Minehead. Aged 63 Years. Funeral service to take place at Taunton Deane Crematorium on Tuesday 30th January at 2.30pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired for Dr Barnardos may be sent C/O Taunton Funeral Service, Windsor Place, Whitehall, Taunton.

PRICHARD, Dr. John, late of Merton College Oxford, Trinity College Dublin & St. James's Hospital, January 22nd, at home, peacefully after a long illness borne with great dignity. Much loved husband of Bernadette and dear father of Sarah, Ruth and David. Deeply regretted by his mother Constance, his loving sister Nerys, brothers in law, sisters in law, nephews, nieces, students, colleagues and friends. Funeral service at St. Patricks Cathedral, Dublin, on Wednesday 24th January at 1.30 p.m. *and burial afterwards* in Mount Venus Cemetery

WILLIAMS, Dr. Joyce Beverley, M.B.E. née Jewson, on January 22nd suddenly but peacefully in hospital aged 85. Widow of Dr Denis Williams, mother of Christopher, Joanna and Hilary. Former long-standing London Magistrate. Private cremation. Memorial service to be announced.

Memorial Services

CVITANOVICH, Frank. A celebration of the life and career of Frank Cvitanovich, the TV and film director, will be held at St James, Piccadilly, at 11am on Tuesday, 20 February 1996.

MELLISH, Mick, (24-1-46 - 13-5-85). In loving and lasting memory of a lovely husband and father who would have been 50 today.

■ To place your announcement telephone 0171 611 9060

Charles Madge

A pioneer of mass observation

CHARLES Madge — Professor Madge as he would not like to have been called — was a charming man with a reticent air in public who yet had three notable public roles in his 83-year life. I was struck by his reticence when I was briefly his boss: he and his second wife, the novelist Inez Pearn, worked for me at PEP (Political and Economic Planning) for two years from 1941 on a study of trade unions. It was much the same when the tables were turned and I was unemployed for a year in 1951-52. I applied to him for the post of assistant lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Birmingham University of which he was then the head. He told me that I had been rejected, with such charm and such reticence, that I was for a time unsure whether I had got the job or not.

His first public role was played through in the years before the war. He went from Winchester to Cambridge as a scientist and emerged as a poet, married to another poet, the captivating Kathleen Raine. He was in his verse allied with the other political poets of the thirties — Auden and Spender and Day-Lewis — and he went for walks on the South Downs with Cambridge economists who told him that when the revolution came it might be necessary to shoot his parents.

Madge's poetry caught the eye of T S Eliot. In his unpublished but publishable autobiography which his daughter Vicky Randall (a notable sociologist like her father) has sent me, he writes of meetings with Eliot:

"Kathleen and I had driven with Eliot on Saturday night. We had a very good time, and Eliot was very careful about both our works. K's book is typed and all ready to be sent off. Fabers have also sent me £6 for poems appearing in their anthology. The *Faber Book of Modern Verse*."

After that, Faber published two volumes of his poetry, The Disappearing Castle (1937) and Father Found (1941).

His second public role was en route from poetry to sociology. He is perhaps best known for what he did then, co-founding Mass-Observation. Madge first floated the idea of a "mass science" in 1937 and Tom Harrison joined him after his return from anthropological studies. They interviewed thousands of lay people, at first in Bolton and then elsewhere, to record their observations and their impressions of life around them. The results were striking partly because Madge and Harrison were both such good writers and made books like Britain By Mass-Observation (1938) and War Begins At Home (1940) highly readable.

THE third role was in the Chair which he sat in for 20 years from 1950. For a long time he lived, with Inez, in Varna Road in the middle of Birmingham. Friends who visited him could hear more about the people of Varna Road than of the University. He went on many missions to southeast Asia and Africa where he was born (in Johannesburg) to a colonial family.

During this period he became chairman and one of the founding trustees of the Institute of Community Studies in Bethnal Green. He was not a good chairman. Diffidence again. But he was marvellously encouraging to me and the other people who worked for the Institute.

In his retirement Madge continued to write. There was a study of an art college (Art Students Observed, 1973) and of poor people in two capital cities (Inner City Poverty in Paris and London, 1981). And he spent a great deal of time before he died co-editing and organising the marvellous collection of texts or images of the Industrial Revolution by Humphrey Jennings, painter, poet and documentary filmmaker. The whole book is well titled Pandemonium 1660-1886 (1985). It goes well beyond its sub-title The Coming of the Machine as seen by contemporary observers.

Madge was a pioneer and leader in an age of sociology when the study was full of promise and excitement, partly because it attracted unusual people like himself and Richard Titmuss at LSE. Both started their working lives in quite different sorts of jobs. He was a poet first and would have liked to have been a poet second as well. But he used his poetic sensibility and very searching powers of observation to enliven social study. This was most notable in Mass-Observation and in the work he did in his research on savings for Maynard Keynes. The work of Mass-Observation using lay observers was rather forgotten for 30 years but has been strikingly revived through the growing interest shown in the Mass-Observation Archive at Sussex University.

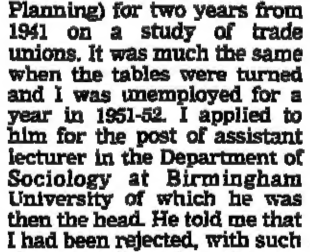
Madge never lost the look of a poet on his own private and original search and brought something of this into his meticulous writing on all kinds of subjects. Sociology would be strengthened if it attracted poets once again, especially if they were as innovative outside and inside poetry as Charles was.

Michael Young

Charles Henry Madge, poet, writer and sociologist, born October 10, 1912; died January 17, 1996

Charles Madge . . . pioneer and leader

Jackdaw



Soccer cred

FOR YEARS — since boyhood, really — I've seen myself as an above-average soccer bore. At my peak, I would happily hold forth for hours about the rugged terrace-time I'd served, at Feethams, White Hart Lane, the Manor Ground. And when it came to the archival stuff, if you could spare the time, well, so could I. "Name three of the Spurs' double side's *reserves*," I'd say, or: "Pick an XI in which every position is taken by a Gary. I'll start. Gary Bailey in goal. Gary Stevens right back . . ."

Yes, truly boring. But in those days soccermania was dark and lonely work. Outside my small circle of co-bores, most people I knew just didn't want to know. From time to time, I'd cut a prole-ish dash in pubs or quell some terrace skinhead with a deft statistic but there were few other social benefits, so far as I could tell. Soccer scholarship cut no ice in the examination halls of Life and it helped not at all with girls. "I thought you were supposed to be a *poet*," they would say. "But soccer," I'd protest, "*is* poetry — well, at its best, it can be, or it nearly is . . . Take Jimmy Greaves. The Man United game." And that, usually, was that.

Those were the days. Now everything has changed. Over the past five years or so, soccer has moved to the very centre-circle of our culture. Books, magazines, TV shows have been sprouting on all sides. Nowadays everybody wants to be a soccer bore. And, what's worse, everybody seems to have found it pretty easy to become one. Trivia I once treasured as peculiarly, eccentrically mine are now revealed to be the dreary stuff of common knowledge. Faced with my archival fire-power, these new young soccer bores don't even blink. "Who *doesn't* know of Bovington, Boyce, Brabrook, Bond et al," they say. "And as for all those Garys, why not make up *two* teams of them, plus subs? Let's see now. Ablett, Bennett, Brookes . . .

These past few years, these years of rampant soccer cred, have been a slow torment for the antique soccer bore. In the old days we were friendless and perhaps despised but we enjoyed a steady faith in our own expertise, our strength in depth: we knew the lot. The depressing thing about these new-wave chaps is that they know it too, and then some . . . Where did they get this stuff? From Sky TV, from Fever Pitch, from Skinner and Baddiel? Or did they get it from their fathers, old soccer bores with nobody to talk to except their captive kids? . . . Another dismaying feature of the new "soccer-literacy" is that its exponents tend to be Litliterate as well. They can zap you with fantasy-league teams of big-name authors: Borges and Márquez up front, Kundera in midfield, Sam Beckett "in the hole". They like to assure you that Gunter Netzer's hairdo belongs in the same world as Gunter Grass's prose. They know all about Nabokov and Camus, and not just because the pair of them kept goal.

Ian Hamilton bemoans the rise of soccer boredom in the ***London Review of Books.***

In the club

AS A TEENAGER in England in the 1930s, I belonged to the Ancient Order of Frothblowers, whose sole purpose was to visit pubs to blow the froth off a pint of bitter. Members were obliged to wear the club's official blue and silver cufflinks in order to recognise and fraternise with fellow frothblowers.

At about the same time, people of all ages rushed to join the Mustard Club. Its purpose was for members to place a blob of Colman's mustard on the north-east corner of their plates, at every mealtime, in such a manner as to be instantly recognised by other members dining in the vicinity. Thousands of otherwise conservative Englishmen (and women) wore the club's emblem — a tiny yellow mustard pot — in their lapel buttonholes.

I remember two wildly esoteric clubs in that most formal and conventional society, Japan: the International Bald Head Club and its twin organisation, the International Moustache Club of Japan. These clubs would meet every few years for fraternal joviality to poke fun at moustaches and bald heads. The unchanging theme was to joke about how to transfer hirsute adornment northwards from the upper lip.

Arthur Lipman contributes a letter to the Economist. An article on America's Millard Fillmore Society, dedicated to the recognition of mediocrity in high places, and named after the not-quite-forgotten 19th century US President, sparked off the correspondence.

Whose Empire?

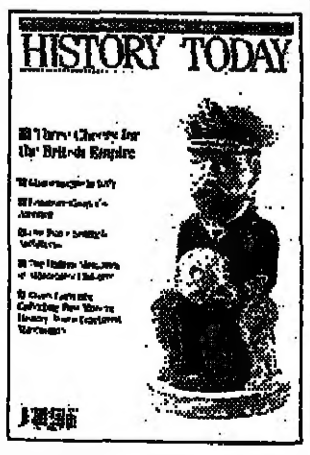
IT IS NOT surprising that the study of the history of the British Empire has taken on yet a new guise: the study of the individual countries which once formed part of it. But, by treating that episode as merely an interruption in their own national story, the centre, its institutions and its doctrines lose their attraction as subjects of study; all the weight is on the periphery.

If the newly emancipated former colonial territories were seen to be fulfilling the expectations of their peoples, whether in material terms or in respect of human rights, then the imperial past would be seen as at best a neutral delaying factor in their development and at worst as wholly negative. Imperial history becomes anti-imperial history.

But things are not like that. Over much of what was the Empire, in most of Africa and parts of Asia and some of the Caribbean islands, governments maintaining themselves by force, biased in favour of particular segments of the population and pursuing economic policies best described as socialism mitigated by corruption, have failed to protect their citizens in the most basic ways, such as in law and order, access to foodstuffs and primary healthcare. Does anyone maintain that Burma or the Sudan are better off now than when they were part of the British Empire? . . .

The most useful key concept for the would-be historians of the British Empire, as for historians of other empires, is the familiar one of law and order. What united imperialists was the belief that order in the sense of known laws actively enforced was good in itself, and achieving this was far more significant for them than the hope of personal gain. There were many easier ways of making money than acting as the overseas representative of the Crown at any level from royal governor to local magistrate or district officer. Whether in particular cases trade followed the flag or the flag followed trade is always a proper subject for argument, the core of empire was not profit but governance.

Max Beloff addresses political correctness and the forthcoming Oxford History Of The British Empire, to be written by individual authors working to section editors and a general editor. From History Today.



Imperium . . . History Today

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Dan Glaister

[illegible]

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*Finance***Guardian**

Forte finally fails in £3.9bn battle

Snap-happy . . . victorious Gerry Robinson, chief executive of Granada, poses for the cameras
PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Rocco set for comeback

Ian King

SIR Rocco Forte is poised to return to the hotels industry, and may even seek to regain control of the Meridien chain which was at the heart of his family empire, it emerged last night.

Sir Rocco, who finally conceded defeat to Granada yesterday, said he and the Forte family — whose personal fortune is worth at least £300 million after yesterday's £3.9 billion takeover of their hotel and catering business — were "evaluating" the situation.

But he made it clear that he had no intention of retiring from business life in the immediate future, given his age of 51.

Sir Rocco said: "I have a number of options, and am not about to sit on my hands. I have lots of experience, lots of energy, and while I am obviously saddened by what has happened, one has to press on. I will be back."

Insisting that he was not responsible for Forte's defeat, Sir Rocco said that hotels "were obviously an area of interest" for any future business venture, adding that Meridien was "something to look at".

As the former chief executive — and, until recently, chairman — of a leading FTSE-100 company, there will be no shortage of invitations for Sir Rocco to take up directorships.

However, it is thought more likely that he will decide to strike out on his own, rebuilding the empire again from scratch.

Sir Rocco may be joined in the venture by his sister, Olga Polizzi, who was managing director of building and design of Forte, and who played a key role in the defence battle, touring the country to drum up support among Forte's 700,000 private shareholders.

Granada has already said it intends to sell the Meridien chain, bought by Forte only 18 months ago, along with other top-of-the-range hotels such as the Grosvenor House and the Waldorf from the Forte Exclusive chain. The City puts a price tag of around £1.6 billion on these assets, which for a man with Sir Rocco's connections, should be attainable.

Although Sir Rocco had come under criticism for several years for the way he ran the company, he has won high praise since Granada launched its surprise bid two months ago, and his track record, despite yesterday's defeat, will still impress many in the Square Mile.

Granada's chief executive, Gerry Robinson, would not be drawn yesterday on the possibility of arranging a deal with Sir Rocco and his backers for the Meridien hotels.

He said face-to-face talks with Sir Rocco and his advisers were about to begin but that "it would be unfair" to speculate on the outcome of those talks before they had taken place.

He added: "Every man and his dog has been in touch with us about Meridien."

Sir Rocco could face stiff competition in bidding for Meridien from Accor, the French hotels group he outbid to win the chain in 1994, and whose executive vice-president, Benjamin Cohen, was quoted yesterday in a French newspaper as expressing interest.

Granada's chief operating officer Charles Allen confirmed last night that the group is keen to find a single buyer for both the Meridien and Exclusive hotels, for tax reasons. He said that if Granada was looking to sell the businesses individually, it would be looking for a price at least 40 per cent better than if the chain was being sold in one block.

Meanwhile, it emerged last night that Sir Rocco spent an additional £2 million on Forte shares on Monday, following his £14.9 million foray into the market last Friday.

Paying 377p a share, last night's closing Granada price values its cash-and shares offer at 384p a time — guaranteeing Sir Rocco an instant paper profit on the transaction of £36,750.

After the feast, the carve-up

OUTLOOK/ Debts will force assets to be sold. **Ian King** looks at what may go

GRANADA will not take long to disembowel the prey it snapped up yesterday for £3.9 billion.

The combine has amassed vast debts — more than £3 billion — in buying Forte, and although it is likely to be given some breathing space by the financiers who bankrolled the bid, chief executive Gerry Robinson will swiftly want to cut borrowings.

An unspecified number of jobs are to go following the takeover, while an array of hotels and other assets will come under the hammer.

Among the first casualties will be some 335 staff at Forte's headquarters on High Holborn, which will be shut within the next few months.

The worldwide sales team set up by Forte to run its international hotels business will definitely go, sold as part of the Meridien hotels chain, for which Granada claims to have received "serious" offers.

Forte's other Exclusive hotels, which with Meridien are valued at around £1.6 billion, will also be sold, although the industry doubts Granada's professed aim to sell them all to one buyer.

ALSO likely to go quickly is Forte's 68 per cent stake in the Savoy, gathered carefully for so long by Lord Forte, and later by his son. Granada has not said how it proposes to dispose of the stake, but City analysts believe the Savoy could once again become a bid target, coming under renewed pressure to reform its antiquated share structure. Forte's remaining 25 per cent stake in the Alpha Airports catering business will also be sold.

Going, too, will be Forte's chain of Welcome Break service stations, which Granada must sell to meet monopolies rules. A possible buyer could be Whitbread, which last month agreed to buy Welcome Break, Little Chef and Happy Eater from Forte for the knock-down price of £1.05 billion in the event that the Granada bid failed.

Last night, Whitbread said it was "naturally disappointed" that it had not been able to buy the businesses, but it may yet secure a deal for Welcome Break — Mr Robinson said last night that he would have "no qualms" about a deal with Whitbread. The City is assuming Granada will be able to sell all of the above assets — the Meridien and Exclusive hotels, Welcome Break and the Alpha and Savoy stakes — for around £2.1 billion.

THE outcome, according to promotional material put out during the bid, is that New Granada will be a "focused leisure" group, concentrating on four specific fields — television, hotels, rental, and leisure and services. All four businesses are highly cash generative, which Granada is confident will also help quickly reduce debts, and are recognised leaders in their field.

Forte's roadside restaurants, Little Chef and Happy Eater, will find themselves absorbed into Granada's existing catering businesses, where Granada expects plenty of savings to be made.

Secondly, detailed changes — such as new menus — will be made to the businesses, with the Happy Eater label likely to vanish under a rebranding programme. It is in these two key areas that Granada expects to make its promised £100 million extra profits in the first full year.

Granada will also ring the changes at the hotels it decides to keep, including Forte's Lodges, White Hart and Posthouse chains, with extensive refurbishments in the offing. Granada is pledged to expand the chain.

Teams behind the battle lines

Forte's Team

Estimated costs:
at least £50 million

Rocco Forte

- **Bankers**
  SBC Warburg - *co-ordinating adviser, led by John Walker-Haworth*
  UBS - *led by Oliver Paul, head, corporate finance*
  Cazenove - *supplementary broker*
  Morgan Stanley - *led by Spencer Fleischer*
  JP Morgan - *Roberto de Mendoza, vice-chairman*
- **Lawyers** Linklaters & Paines
- **Accountants** Price Waterhouse
- **Management Consultants** LEK
- **Financial PR** Brunswick

Granada's Team

Estimated costs: £105 million, including £70m underwriting fees

Gerry Robinson

- **Bankers**
  Lazard Brothers & Co - *led by vice-chairman John Nelson*
- **Joint brokers**
  Hoare Govett - *led by Nigel Mills, md, corporate finance*
  BZW Securities - *led by Simon de Zoete, chairman of equities*
- **Lead underwriters**
  Chemical Bank, Lazards
- **Lawyers** Lovell White Durrant
- **Accountants** Touche Ross
  Management Consultants
  None - *Gerry Robinson is quoted as saying they are "a bloody waste of time"*
- **Financial PR** Citigate

GRAPHIC: STEVE VILLIERS, IAN KING

Hostile bids of the past

Year	Bidder	Target	Deal size	Costs
1995	Glaxo	Wellcome	£9.1bn	£140m
1995	Scottish Power	Manweb	£1.1bn	£60m
1995	North West Water	Norweb	£1.8bn	£60m
1994	Trafalgar House	Northern Electric ✗	£1.2bn	£35m
1994	Enterprise Oil	Lasmo ✗	£1.6bn	£60m
1989	Hoylake	BAT ✗	£13bn	£165m
1989	Minorco	Consolidated Gold Fields ✗	£3.3bn	£50m
1989	SmithKline	Beecham	£4.5bn	£75m
1989	Barker & Dobson	Dee Corporation ✗	£1.9bn	£14m
1986	Argyll	Distillers ✗	£2.4bn	£35m
1986	Guinness	Distillers	£2.5bn	£125m

✗ Indicates failed bid

No sad Café for the losers

While Dan Atkinson enjoys a wake, Sarah Ryle finds tea but no sympathy

A DEFIANT Sir Rocco Forte last night virtually turned a "defeat party" into a victory celebration. "We may have lost but it feels as though we've won," he told enthusiastically cheering employees at London's Café Royal.

The Café Royal is one of London's grandest function centres and has undoubtedly been earmarked for sell-off by Granada in its pursuit of a more proletarian strategy for Forte. So last night's party seemed to be bidding a fond farewell to an era in British hotelkeeping. A three-piece band slept its way through a succession of numbers, all of which sounded like 1960s film themes.

One partygoer, an employee based at the reservations centre in Aylesbury, took a down-to-earth view. Told the final balance of shares was 66.7 per cent to Granada, he expressed disappointment at losing his own bet on the office sweep which had been for an 80 per cent Granada victory.

Many of those present may shortly be seeking alternative employment but they managed to put on a remarkably cheerful front. Asked why this was, one member of staff pointed out that they were, above all, in the hotel business: "We're paid to look like this."

Sir Rocco was presented with a cake decorated with icing declaring "F=£4", a reference to the chief executive's own (over-)valuation of the company's shares.

Meanwhile, at half past three the soporific calm at the Waldorf, one of Forte's trophy hotels now under the hammer, continued undented.

Owners come and go but taking tea, a time-honoured national institution barely affected by war or terrorism, let alone by a successful £3.9 billion takeover, just carries on as normal.

Semi-retired accountant John Jones, who has the occasional business lunch at the Waldorf and described the bar as his "local watering-hole", said: "Ordinary people probably won't notice any difference, but costs will be cut which means staff losses and lower standards, and prices will go up. If I owned shares in either Granada or Forte I would have sold them before now."

Sally Cullen, a personal assistant trying out the Waldorf's Palm Court with a view to arranging an office function, said: "I don't think it would necessarily make a difference if Granada runs it because they will hardly be likely to change things even if they do run motorway service restaurants."

Temperature rises as Mercury feels the heat

Paul Murphy

FUND manager Mercury Asset Management was *caught in the crossfire* between Granada and Forte yesterday as the predator's success was confirmed.

As expected, it announced that it was going to vote in Granada's favour some three hours before the deadline for acceptances passed at 1pm. Only later did it emerge that not all of the votes attached to the 108 million shares under MAM's control had counted against Forte.

On Monday, Sir Stanley Kalms, chief executive of electrical retailer Dixons, faxed a letter to MAM, which manages Dixons' group pension fund, pointing out that the pension trustees were opposed to the Granada offer. Faced with unprecedented *intervention from a client,* MAM decided not to count the relatively small number of Forte shares sitting in the Dixons pension fund.

Managers of pension funds *tend to exercise near-total discretion* over the shares under their control. And while some managers have reported isolated instances of trustees applying discreet pressure over voting intentions in the past, the straightforward approach adopted by Dixons came as a surprise.

The move immediately triggered speculation that lobbying pension trustees to in turn lobby the fund managers may become a common feature of future bid battles — possibly diluting the power of particular fund managers in closely fought contests.

The fax from Sir Stanley was said to be polite. "There were no demands or threats and the final decision was left to MAM," one source reported.

Meanwhile, Granada's Gerry Robinson defended MAM's conduct during the bid. "There has been a lot of nonsense talked. The bid would have been won without MAM. MAM has acted throughout in an extremely professional way and at no point did they tell us how they were going to vote," he said.

But those close to the Forte camp suggested Sir Rocco felt "betrayed" by MAM's move.

Notebook

Dispiriting side of takeover success

Edited by
Alex Brummer

THERE is something slightly dispiriting at watching a successful family enterprise, built up over the decades into a world class hotel group, wiped out on the proxy of one large fund manager, Mercury Asset Management. Without the vote of Carol Galley and the team at MAM, Forte would have escaped with its independence.

For the second time in recent years MAM has lined up behind Granada and its chief executive, Gerry Robinson, *as the hidden hand in a hostile takeover bid.*

The rest of this spectacle will not be that edifying either. The loss of jobs, the wholesale sell-off of Forte subsidaries from the motorway service stations to the up-market Meridien hotels, to the sweating of assets which will no doubt mean higher prices for the consumer.

It will be said, of course, that Sir Rocco Forte and family did too little too late in seeking to release shareholder value. Certainly, it *might have been helpful had* Sir Rocco Forte been moving along the demerger route and had acted to separate the jobs of chairman and chief executive a little earlier. However, given that the financial benefits to shareholders were not far apart in this bid, the institutions were a trifle harsh.

Plainly, however, Sir Rocco is not planning to disappear forever to a Caribbean retreat. Armed with the receipts of the family share sales (which will be around £300 million) he plans to be back in the hotel business: one cannot rule out the possibility that he may seek to embrace the Savoy or even Meridien if finances can be found.

In many ways the Granada-Forte bid has been an anachronism at a time when corporate focus, of the kind being sought at Thorn EMI, seems a much better way of managing assets and releasing value. It can only be hoped that it does not set a precedent for the return of the empty eighties bid culture.

Railtrack value

DESPITE considerable scepticism the schedule *for the privatisation of* Railtrack appears to be on time and the Government has reasonable hope of selling the rail network operator in one tranche. The half-yearly figures just released have a credible air about them, with before tax profits of £98 million.

However, it should be remembered that, for now, they are basically contrived in that the majority of the operating companies are still in the public sector. Until they have been fully commercialised it will be that much more difficult for the City, as well as the smaller investor, to understand Railtrack's potential.

Among the many imponderables that will influence the value of Railtrack at privatisation is the level of debt. At present Railtrack carries *some £1.57 billion in its* balance sheet: if it can persuade the Treasury to wipe the larger part of this out then the prospects for a privatised Railtrack will be that much better. *Maybe, at long last,* there will be some capacity for greater investment in, for instance, state-of-the-art signalling systems.

The other interesting aspect of the Railtrack privatisation, is without doubt the property portfolio. The six month income from property was £56 million and, in addition, the company took in a net profit of £9 million from disposals. It was clear from the outset, when the merchant banks first ran their eyes over Railtrack, that the *property portfolio has huge* development potential.

Every station has the possibility of becoming an office-retail centre and many, in city centres, are surrounded by surplus sidings and car-parks. The valuation of these sites at privatisation will naturally be conservative: as no one is quite sure when and how development will take place. Given, however, that Railtrack will be sold on its income stream and dividend, this (like the National Grid in power privatisation) could *provide the hidden value.*

Bouncing back

IT *WOULD be easy to* conclude from a cursory glance at yesterday's CBI survey and the mortgage data from the Building Societies Association that the economy is set for a crash landing. Easy, but wrong.

True, industry's order books are at their weakest for three years and the number of mortgage commitments fell sharply in December, underlining the fact that 1995 was the poorest year for the housing market since the three-day week in 1974.

But there are other factors to take into consideration. Manufacturing is halfway through a classic stock adjustment, with the run-down of inventories caused by the moderation in demand over the past six to nine months. This may go on for another quarter, but not much longer.

Why? For one thing, the money supply figures suggest that the corporate sector is borrowing heavily, and while some of this is due to the increase in merger and takeover activity, that in itself is a *sign of expansion rather than* impending contraction.

More overtly, a large chunk of bank and building society lending is for capital investment and the corporate sector is awash with cash, not heavily indebted as in the late 1980s. Monetary policy is being eased, not tightened.

Add to that a consumer sector bolstered by tax cuts, Tessas, building society mergers and cheaper borrowing, and the ingredients are there for a bounce-back later this year.

Fokker has last ditch talks with Dutch government

Mark Milner and
Claire Trevena

FOKKER'S chairman, Ben van Schaik, yesterday held talks with the Dutch government in a last ditch attempt to save the company. On Monday the aircraft maker's controlling shareholder, Daimler-Benz, refused further financial support.

Dutch government officials would not comment on the outcome of the talks, but the economics ministry acknowledged: "There have been contacts".

Bombardier, the Canadian parent company of Belfast-based Short Brothers, dismissed speculation that it intended to buy Fokker, saying it had no plans to acquire any part of the Dutch business.

It said there would be no problems for Short, which makes aircraft wings and other parts for the Dutch company, if Fokker did go under. Short works for a number of other airline manufacturers — including Lockheed, Boeing and Bombardier itself.

Union leaders at Short are worried that up to 1,500 jobs at the Northern Ireland company could be threatened if the Dutch firm collapses.

Alex McRitchie, director of communications at Short, said yesterday: "If the worst happens we will weather that storm quite well. We are healthy and we are growing."

He said the company had worked in partnership with Fokker for 30 years and, while he would not say if Fokker owed Short money, he did not foresee any problems in dealing with the immediate future.

Fokker had been expected to seek court protection from its creditors immediately after Daimler-Benz's announcement, but now seems to be seeking bridging loans to tide it over until a long-term solution can be found.

A bridging loan from the Dutch government would give it time to find buyers for the viable parts of the business or to find a new partner to replace Daimler, which Fokker would prefer.

The company is estimated to need around four million guilders (£1.6 million) a day to keep it afloat, but the Dutch government is thought to be reluctant to provide bridging finance on its own.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia	2.00
Austria	15.15
Belgium	44.25
Canada	2.01
Cyprus	0.6875
Denmark	8.40
Finland	6.79
France	7.38
Germany	2.17
Greece	364.00
Hong Kong	11.50
India	54.27
Ireland	0.945
Israel	4.73
Italy	2,385
Malta	0.5375
Netherlands	2.44
New Zealand	2.25
Norway	9.54
Portugal	225.00
Saudi Arabia	5.50
Singapore	2.10
South Africa	5.35
Spain	182.00
Sweden	10.31
Switzerland	1.73
Turkey	88,183
USA	1.48

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Chancellor stands firm on growth prediction

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

KENNETH Clarke last night strongly defended his upbeat forecasts for UK economic growth this year despite a gloomy survey from the Confederation of British Industry showing thousands of factory job losses over the coming months.

The Chancellor told the British American Chamber of Commerce that pundits predicting a poor year for the economy were wrong and that higher investment and rising consumer spending would ensure that his Budget forecast of 3 per cent growth came good. "I am optimistic about prosperity and jobs in 1996 because we have controlled public spending, kept down inflation and left room for investment and consumer demand," he said.

The Treasury believes that the acceleration in the growth of the money supply to a five-year high may be a sign that the recent slackening in growth is merely a pause. Broad money — notes and coins plus bank and building society accounts — rose by 10 per cent in the year to December, according to yesterday's Bank of England data.

However, the latest quarterly study of manufacturing industry from the CBI provided a more sombre view, containing evidence that factories are set to shed more than 20,000 jobs in the next three months as firms try to cope with falling order books and profit margins.

The CBI's poll of more than 1,000 firms found that business confidence was weak, cost and price pressures had abated in the face of tough competitive pressures and that manufacturers were running down stocks.

Andrew Buxton, chairman of the CBI's economic situation committee, said the results of the survey fully vindicated the Chancellor's decision to shave a quarter point off interest rates last week.

The employers' organisation shares Mr Clarke's belief that the economy will start to pick up later this year.

"This is not a recession. The export side has slowed down and we are seeing sluggish growth, but we are not close to a recession," Mr Buxton said. "We have now had the half-point cut in interest rates that we were asking for at the time of the Budget. Let's wait and see what effect that will have before asking for further reductions."

The CBI survey found that the volume of new orders fell in the final four months of 1995 for the first time since early 1993. Business optimism dropped for the third successive quarter, the number of firms working below capacity rose and output growth declined to its lowest level for more than two years.

Mr Buxton said manufacturers were expecting order and output to pick up but warned that for the past three surveys expectations had not been realised.

With the money supply figures suggesting that firms were increasing capital spending, Mr Clarke said low inflation and low interest rates meant conditions for investment had never been better.

Double whammy for house sales

Margaret Hughes
Personal Finance Editor

CONFIDENCE in a recovery in the housing market will be dealt twin blows today when it emerges that mortgage transactions dipped last year to their lowest levels for 21 years and lending fell again last month.

Gross mortgage advances last month, according to the Building Societies Association, fell by 2.8 per cent in December to £2.87 billion.

Loan approvals, indicating underlying demand, were down by almost 25 per cent to £2.42 billion and the number of loans approved fell by 27 per cent.

In November, gross mortgage lending and approvals both rose by around 12 per cent. But mortgage lending by banks fell in December from £686 million to £544 million.

Lending figures for 1995 as a whole show that societies' gross mortgage advances were down 2.45 per cent at £34.51 billion, while mortgage approvals fell by a similar amount to £33.4 billion. But lending transactions were sharply down, with the number of both mortgage advances and loan approvals falling by around 15 per cent.

The total number of mortgages advanced, at 522,000, was less than half the level reached in the peak year of 1988 and were at their lowest level since 1974. Mortgage approvals showed a similar depressing picture, falling to their lowest level since 1974 at 513,000, against 1.21 million in 1988.

While December is traditionally a quiet month for mortgage lending, Adrian Coles, director general of the BSA, said the latest figures still showed that any recovery would be "erratic".

But he argued that last week's further cut in bank base rates "should help encourage interest in house purchase over the coming months".

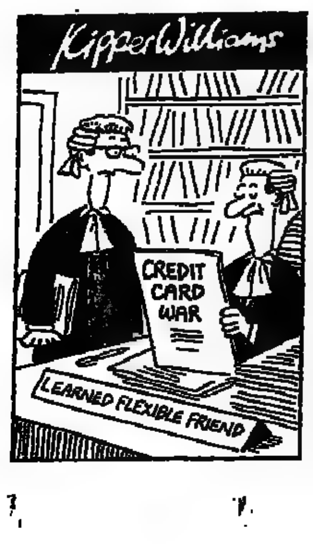
Amex attacks inflexible foe

Richard Thomas
and Julie Wolf

APLASTIC card war erupted yesterday when American Express complained to the European Commission about alleged abusive and anti-competitive behaviour by its arch rival, Visa.

Visa is considering the introduction of a regulation which would ban its 19,000 member banks from issuing Amex cards, or risk expulsion from Visa's international association.

Jürgen Aumüller, president of American Express Europe, said: "If allowed to go unchecked, there will be nothing to prevent Visa's abusive practices from giving Visa further control over distribution in the European card system."



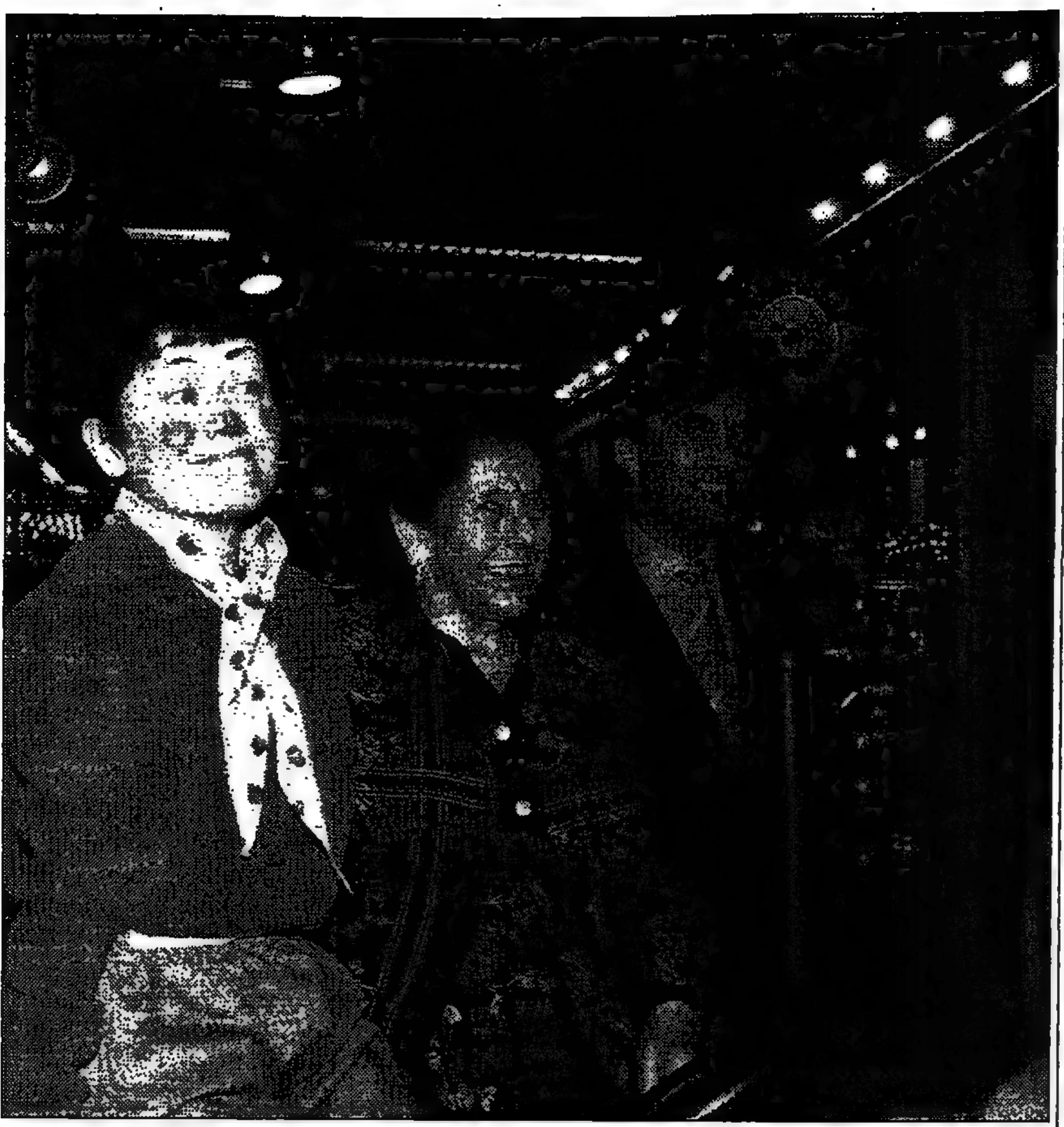
Amex sees access to mainstream banks as a key element in a new customer-driven strategy, alongside the introduction of credit cards. The company is afraid that Visa will use its dominant position — with 425 million cardholders worldwide against 38 million American Express members — to block any deals with banks.

An Amex spokeswoman said last night: "There is a pretty heated war going on here — they think they can squeeze us out of the market."

Visa accused Amex of unnecessary hostility. Spokesman Peter Halliday said: "This action seems presumptious and premature. This is all at the discussion stage — and we would not do anything to contravene European law."

He added that the aim of any change in policy — which would in any case need the support from the banks which run the association — was simply to ensure that competitors could not get a "free ride" on the network of banks Visa had established over 20 years.

A spokesman for the commission said it had received the complaint and would study the matter, but gave no indication of how long it would take to come to a decision. Under EU anti-trust rules, the commission has the power to force changes in corporate agreements which restrict competition.



Noddy, with Enid Blyton's daughter Gillian Baverstock, is joining Nick Leslau's Trocadero PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Now Noddy tanks after Thomas

IN their time, the creations of Enid Blyton have put up with a great deal, *writes Dan Atkinson*. The Famous Five tangled with a ghost train, the Secret Seven came up against assorted uglies, while Noddy had his brushes with PC Plod.

Yesterday the Blyton crew faced the final indignity: they were translated into "brands" valued at £14.25 million.

According to their new owner, the Trocadero company that runs the Piccadilly Circus complex, the Blytonians' new targets are Thomas the Tank Engine, with a $1 billion turnover, and the Disney stable.

The characters hitherto rested in the gentle stewardship of Darrell Waters, a Blyton family company that made a modest £606,762 in 1995. Director Gillian Baverstock, the writer's eldest daughter, remains with the business.

Last year the Duchess of York's Budgie the Helicopter made more than Blyton's 700 books, 10,000 short stories and merchandise, proof that something had to change in Toytown.

The Famous Five have acquired valuable brand status

Accountant sues rival Coopers for 'negligent' Barings audit

Pauline Springett

ACCOUNTANTS Coopers & Lybrand are being sued for hundreds of millions of pounds over alleged negligent auditing of collapsed merchant bank Barings, it emerged yesterday.

It is understood that the claim, which is not finalised, will be based on the amount that Barings could have been sold for if the £860 million losses which caused its downfall had not occurred. That could put a final claim including goodwill at up to £2 billion.

Rival accountants Ernst & Young, who act as administrators of the Baring Group of companies, yesterday issued Coopers with a writ in respect of its auditing during the four years 1991 to 1994 inclusive.

E&Y is also poised to issue writs in Singapore against Coopers in relation to the 1994 audit, as well as against Deloitte & Touche in Singapore over the 1992 and 1993 audits.

A spokesman for Coopers in London said: "We are not aware of any grounds of any claim against us. We were not responsible for the collapse of Barings. It collapsed as a result of management failure and fraud. This looks like another example of suing auditors because they are perceived to have deep pockets regardless of genuine culpability."

The move to sue Coopers is likely to accelerate the move within the accounting profession towards limited liability, particularly by the "big six". Last autumn KPMG became the first big firm to take the plunge.

Reports into last February's collapse of Barings by the Bank of England and the Singapore authorities both laid the brunt of the blame for what happened on Mr Leeson and Barings management. But Chancellor Kenneth Clarke said the report in respect of Coopers in London "raises doubts over the effectiveness of their testing of internal controls".

However, the Bank of England report highlighted that it was Coopers who first spotted something was wrong when it queried a £50 million transaction which eventually proved to be at the heart of the fraud.

Coopers in London has always insisted it did its work properly. It has continually stressed that it had not actually signed off the final Baring accounts.

Stark warning for power industry

Watchdog wants full competition by 1998. Simon Beavis reports

THE electricity watchdog yesterday delivered a sharp warning to the power industry against any delay in plans for introducing full competition in the domestic market in 1998.

Professor Stephen Littlechild also accused the industry of overestimating the costs of introducing competition by a factor of five and said he would resist efforts to load consumers with extra costs for liberalisation.

His comments came in repsonse to an official report from the electricity pool which had warned there was a less than 50 per cent chance of introducing full competition to 23 million customers on April 1, 1998 as planned.

The pool also warned that the costs of setting up computer systems to run the new competitive market for 23 million consumers would be £250 million with annual operating costs of £70 million.

Prof Littlechild said the initial costs should be no more than £50 million with annual running costs as little as £15 million. This was a "substantial cut" compared with the pool's own estimates.

He made it clear that he would not accept any delays or any proposal which involved customers paying more than £1 each extra a year after 1998. Nor would he endorse any plan which forced consumers to stump up additional money in advance.

The pool was also trying to impose costs on customers that should already be covered by the industry to fulfil obligations under distribution licences.

"Pool advisers suggest that there is less than a 50 per cent chance of implementing the changes they propose by April 1, 1998. This is not acceptable. The industry has had six years to plan for 1998," he declared.

The pool will meet next week to discuss the regulator's response and said it would be endeavouring to ensure there was no "undue delay."

The sharp exchange came as Midlands Electricity confirmed that it had received approaches from other potential bidders after PowerGen's £1.9 billion bid for it was referred to the Monopolies Commission. But it stressed there was no "immediate prospect" of an offer being made.

One foreign company in the frame as a potential rival bidder for Midlands, the Belgian utility Tractebel, yesterday issued a statement denying it was about to bid for Midlands but said it remained interested in opportunities in the UK power sector.

Mercury fails to get up to speed with customers

Chris Barrie

MERCURY Communications suffered a setback yesterday when the telephone industry watchdog, Oftel, published data revealing that the company lags behind competitors in customer service.

The news came as competition in the telecoms market intensified with AT&T saying it would invest heavily in the UK and wait for up to four years to break even. By the end of the decade the UK operation would have a turnover of $1 billion, officials predicted.

According to Oftel reports, Mercury managed to meet its promises to provide services to business customers by agreed dates in 80.9 per cent of cases for dedicated customers, and in 70.9 per cent of cases for switched customers, while BT managed to meet its service criteria for dedicated and switched customers in 98.4 per cent and 97.8 per cent of cases respectively.

Mercury also lagged on its handling of business and residential complaints, resolving 75.3 per cent in 20 days compared with 95.8 per cent at BT. However, Mercury fared better on the accuracy of its billing, coming second in a league table of eight rival companies.

Peter Howell-Davies, Mercury's chief executive, said the company had been addressing "every aspect of customer service" since restructuring its operations.

News in brief

Farnell punished for £2bn purchase

SHARES of the Farnell Electronics group fell 9 per cent yesterday after chief executive Howard Poulson announced a £2 billion acquisition which would make it the world's third-biggest electronics distributor. The City decided that the group, which began life in a radio shop, was overpaying for Premier Industrial Corp of Cleveland, Ohio. The shares fell 62p to 617p, wiping more than £85 million off the group's market value.

The group, based at Wetherby, West Yorkshire, sells 90 per cent of its products in the UK and Europe and is keen to break into a US market worth £45 billion a year. Warren Vincent, a fund manager with Coutts & Co, which manages a block of Farnell shares, said: "The consensus here is that they've overpaid. We think there would have been an opportunity to buy the assets at a cheaper price."

Premier's Newark Electronics division sells more than 125,000 electronics products to industrial customers and home electronics enthusiasts through a catalogue which accounts for 70 per cent of sales. Mr Poulson expected profits to jump 21 per cent to £75 million in the year ending on Sunday, but the new company would have total debt of £450 million and shareholder equity would show a deficit of £130 million. — *Tony May*

Zeneca set to please market

PHARMACEUTICALS group Zeneca said yesterday that its 1995 profit, before exceptional items, would be at the upper end of market expectations. Analysts said current pre-tax profit expectations were between £850 million to £870 million for the group, which continues to attract occasional takeover speculation.

Zeneca also revealed it would be making a £60 million net exceptional charge, mainly for restructuring and improving the efficiency of the manufacturing and distribution activities of its drugs operation. The group's pharmaceuticals division reported strong fourth-quarter sales. — *Pauline Springett*

Seafood firm's cash warning

SEAPERFECT'S shares were suspended at 71p yesterday after the world's largest controlled producer of shellfish warned that it had failed to secure extra working capital from a number of Chilean banks. It said further finance was essential to secure SeaPerfect's long-term future. Chief executive Bill Lord-Butcher added that SeaPerfect's overall level of debt was within the board's expectations.

The group, whose shares were floated on the stock market at 120p each in November 1994, hit problems last September when some of the young scallops grown in cages off the coast of Chile died and had to be replaced. The board recently cut the workforce and its investment programme. — *Tony May*

Disney rides high

THE Walt Disney company made a record $496 million (£327 million) profit for the first quarter, a 2.9 per cent increase over $482 million a year ago. The entertainment giant, awaiting government approval for its takeover of Capital Cities/ABC, was helped by successful films like Toy Story and While You Were Sleeping. Revenues also set a record, climbing to $3.62 billion from $3.3 billion a year ago.

With the Disneyland and Walt Disney theme parks enjoying record attendances, the theme park business saw a 14 per cent rise in operating profit to $190 million from $167 million a year ago. Disney shares rose $1/4 to $60¾. — *Mark Tran in New York*

Power plant clean-up cost

BRITISH ENERGY, the nuclear power company being prepared for privatisation this summer, will contribute some £50 million a year towards a segregated fund to pay for the closure and clean-up of atomic power stations, government advisers revealed yesterday.

In evidence to the Commons trade and industry select committee, BZW admitted that they had around eight weeks to complete final work on the treatment of the industry's massive liabilities for power station decommissioning in readiness for the official launch of marketing of the summer flotation. — *Simon Beavis*

Unilever in £360m deal

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch consumer products group, has agreed to pay £360 million for most of the worldwide business of Canadian industrial cleaning company Diversey. Diversey, part of The Molsen Companies, is a leading industrial cleaning products business, particularly in the food and drinks industry.

Excluded from the deal are Diversey's metal finishing operation, its water treatment division and the US institutional and laundry business. Diversey operates in North America, Europe, Japan and emerging markets. — *Pauline Springett*

Bank staff plan action

YORKSHIRE Bank employees yesterday launched a campaign of industrial action after rejecting a pay offer. Members of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union will ban overtime from Thursday to Sunday throughout February unless the bank increases its offer. The union's move follows a ballot which showed 2,643 staff were against the offer, with 1,037 in favour. — *PA*

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The Guardian
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هدية من الاصل

Cricket

Australia to play after all

David Hopps

AUSTRALIA have confirmed their participation in the World Cup after government representations brought reassurances that security measures will be stepped up in Pakistan to protect their players in the wake of the Salim Malik affair.

Australia are particularly concerned about possible reprisals against Shane Warne and Mark Waugh, two of the players at the centre of bribery allegations against the former Pakistan captain.

"We wish to participate in the World Cup and we hope that nothing transpires over the next five to 10 days that would cause us to reconsider," said Graham Halbish, the Australian Cricket Board's chief executive, in announcing a full-strength 14-man squad.

Michael Slater, dropped for the second half of the World Series, was chosen for the final batting place ahead of Dean Jones and Greg Blewett. Of the original 18, Tim May and Michael Kasprowicz were also left out.

ACB officials outlined security arrangements during a two-hour meeting with the players, after Warne and the fast bowler Craig McDermott voiced concern about their safety. Warne has received several threatening letters for alleging that Malik tried to bribe him during Australia's tour of Pakistan 15 months ago.

Sri Lanka's controversial tour of Australia has also caused some disquiet. The tourists were found guilty of ball-tampering during the first Test in Perth last month, only to be exonerated on appeal, and then their leading Test wicket-taker, Muttiah Muralitharan, was no-balled for throwing.

AUSTRALIA SQUAD: Taylor (capt), Healy, Bevan, Fleming, Law, Lee, McDermott, McGrath, Ponting, Reiffel, Slater, Warne, M Waugh, S Waugh.

England take the losing habit back to Heathrow

THE losing habit pursued the England team back to Heathrow yesterday, when their baggage went missing.

The players were held up for 2¼ hours after their 12-hour flight from Port Elizabeth via Johannesburg while staff searched for the container carrying their personal luggage. It had been directed to the wrong terminal.

Mike Atherton declined to comment on the tour but Darren Gough was in jollier mood. "It's a great relief to discover my real form after all this time," he said. "My yorker is back and going well, and I'm beginning to swing the ball both ways again."

- Chris Cairns smashed nine sixes in a spectacular century to help New Zealand set Zimbabwe 367 to win the second Test in Auckland. The Nottinghamshire all-rounder fell just short of Walter Hammond's Test record of 10 sixes in an innings — for England against New Zealand at Eden Park in 1933 — in making 120 off 96 balls.
- Sri Lanka will attempt to have their off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan "cleared" of throwing by the ICC in time for the third Test in Adelaide beginning tomorrow on the basis of video and medical evidence and the testimony of an expert in biomechanics.

Top people at Eton . . . Europe's 400m No. 1 Richardson (left) and 200m junior champion Devonish PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

New elite on playing fields of Eton

THE Battle of Waterloo, according to the Duke of Wellington, was won on the playing fields of Eton. Within a few years the same institution may produce further decisive British victories on foreign fields, *writes John Duncan.*

Mark Richardson, Britain's European No. 1 400 metres runner, yesterday launched a school of sprinting which eventually will be based at Eton's lottery-funded new track, a circuit designed to speed Britain's most promising junior sprinters into the senior ranks.

The school, backed by Nike, will provide three scholarships for young athletes, who in addition to receiving on-track coaching will be taught to handle the pressures both of success and failure.

"A youngster could experience a meteoric rise up the rankings," said Richardson, "and a whole host of pressures never previously considered. Too many potential stars give up athletics for soccer and rugby because of such pressures and the lack of support."

"There is a lot of pressure when you become a senior," said Marlon Devonish, a 19-year-old who was European junior 200m champion last year. "You get labelled as the next Linford Christie and you don't know how to deal with it. You end up overtraining and underperforming, which is demoralising when so much is expected of you. Sometimes you don't recover."

Racing

Maguire faces Festival battle of wounded knee

Graham Rock

ADRIAN MAGUIRE suffered a crippling fall on Boss's Bank in the opening race at Leicester yesterday, damaging ligaments in his left knee and will be out of action for at least a month.

Specialists at Leicester Royal Infirmary told the jockey that he would need between four and six weeks to recover, and Maguire will be fighting hard to be fit for Cheltenham.

Maguire missed the Festival last year because of the death of his mother, Phyllis, but he hopes to be back for the big meeting which begins on March 12.

"Obviously he's upset and disappointed," said Dave Roberts, his agent. "Knowing Adrian, I think he'll make Cheltenham, and he certainly deserves a change of luck. He broke his arm in a bad fall last spring, which cost him his chance in the championship, and he broke his ankle on Hatcham Boy at Ascot in the autumn."

Mick Fitzgerald, who was riding Wayfarer's Way, one of three horses brought down by Boss's Bank, said that Maguire would return to the hospital in two or three days for further examination.

"He might have chipped a bone," he said. "Adrian is comfortable and has had his knee strapped. It is unfortunate because he had just started to get things together again."

The brilliant young Irish jockey was at his best on Monday, riding a 1,835-1 treble at Warwick, and Boss's Bank, who had won both his bumper races, looked an exciting prospect to maintain the jockey's successful run.

Starting at 11-10 favourite to make a winning debut over hurdles, David Nicholson's horse jumped the first two moderately and hit the third, giving Maguire no chance of staying in the saddle.

"It was horrific," Fitzgerald said. "Two of us went over him and it was totally unavoidable." Boss's Bank was put down, having suffered broken ribs and internal injuries.

While Maguire was on the ground at Leicester, votes being counted in London confirmed Granada's success in taking over Forte, sponsors of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp, and the race could have a new title on October 6.

Louis Romanet, the Director of France Galop, responsible for international affairs, will contact Gerry Robinson, the chief executive of Granada, over the next few weeks to discuss the sponsorship of France's most famous race. "It is possible that they will want to change the name," Romanet said.

The three-year contract to sponsor the Arc expires after the 1996 race, and the probability is that Romanet will have to seek support elsewhere. Robinson has already stated that Granada's corporate style is more modest.

"A range of savings opportunities will be available including, for example, the sponsorship arrangements such as the Forte Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe," he said.

"Of course, we will find out first from Granada what the possibilities are for the future," said Romanet. "The present contract of £150,000 a year is very, very good value. When it was agreed, the pound was stronger against the Franc than now. Since then we have signed a three-year agreement with the BBC and French racing is getting much wider coverage. I believe the sponsorship is worth more."

Sedgefield runners and riders

1.10 Welsh Mill
1.40 Vintage Taittinger (nb)
2.10 Sunderland Echo
2.40 Finch's Gem
3.10 Circulation
3.40 Sierra Madrona
4.10 Decent Penny

★ Denotes blinkers. Going: Good (Good to firm in places)

1.10 NORTHERN ELECTRIC CHARITY NOVICE HURDLE (Div I) 2m 1f 110yds £2,405

1	2012F0	CADEAUX PREMIERE (11) Denys Smith 5-11-11	B Harding (3)
2	22/-02	BALHERNOCH (19) M H Easterby 7-11-4	L Wyer
3		COUREUR M Hammond 7-11-4	Mr C Bonner (3)
4	0020	FRYUP SATELLITE (12) Mrs J Brown 5-11-4	E Callaghan (5)
5	42	HIGHLAND WAY (14) Martin Todhunter 8-11-4	R Garritty
6	6	MISTER CASUAL (12) W Reed 7-11-4	T Reed
7	U0F-0	PAINT YOUR WAGON (78) N Chamberlain 6-11-4	B Storey
8	4225-0	THURSDAY NIGHT (29) J FitzGerald 5-11-4	M Dwyer
9	0/-422	WELSH MILL (50) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4	P Niven
10	P	COLOUR OF LIFE (52) N Lampard 6-10-13	Guy Lewis (3)
11	0	LEVEL EDGE (200) H Alexander 5-10-13	D Thomas (7)
12	050	GENERAL JUMBO (8) F Murphy 4-10-6	P Carberry
13	0	KEY OF DOLLY (8) J O'Neill 4-10-1	A Roche (3)
14	0	OUR RAINBOW (84) Mrs S Austin 4-10-1	B Grattan (7)

TOP FORM TIPS: Welsh Mill 8, Balhernoch 7, Highland Way 6

Betting: 6-4 Welsh Mill, 2-1 Balhernoch, 4-1 Highland Way, 12-1 Thursday Night, 16-1 Coureur, Cadeaux Premiere, 25-1 Mister Casual, 33-1 Level Edge. 14 runners.

1.40 STONEGRAVE AGGREGATES SELLING H'CAP HURDLE 2m 1f 110yds £2,122

1	211345	WILD ROSE OF YORK (19) (BF) P Monteith 5-11-11	G Cahill (7)
2	40040-0	ASHDREN (11) A Harrison 9-11-8	D Bentley
3	31430-0	LIABILITY ORDER (37) (D) J Birkett 7-11-8	M Moloney
4	4300/-06	REVE DE VALSE (65) Denys Smith 9-11-7	B Harding (3)
5	U-68250	SUPERHOO (83) (CD) R Craggs 5-11-6	A Dobbin
6	1003/0P-	JOBOVE (442) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-6	P Niven
7	0203-04	MARKED CARD (14) Mrs M Kendall 8-10-13	Mrs M Kendall
8	442316	CANDID LAD (65) (CD) F Storey 9-10-12	B Storey
9	0/60-000	PIER THIRTY NINE (20) J Parkes 10-10-6	R McCarthy (7)
10	10005	MY HANDY MAN (16) R Allan 5-10-5	S Melrose (7)
11	00605	ORCHIDARMA (7) J Quinn 4-10-1	M Dwyer
12	0640-0P	MY LINDIANNE (15) J Dooler 5-10-0	R Davis
13	PF0P-00	THOMAS RAND (20) M Dods 7-10-0	N Smith
14	003	VINTAGE TAITTINGER (14) T Dyer 4-10-0	L Wyer
15	460005-	TROPHEVAD (242) P Spottiswood 8-10-0	F Perratt
16	550/-0	AUNTIE LORNA (4) T Watson 7-10-0	DOUBTFUL
17	00-0000	THARSIS (20) W Smith 11-10-0	D Ryan (7)
18	PP/00-PP	ULTRAKAY (35) J Haynes 8-10-0	D Parker (3)

TOP FORM TIPS: Vintage Taittinger 10, Thomas Rand 8, Superhoo 7

Betting: 4-1 Vintage Taittinger, 5-1 Wild Rose Of York, 7-1 Reve de Valse, 8-1 Superhoo, Thomas Rand, 10-1 Candid Lad, Ashdren, Liability Order. 17 runners.

2.10 NORTHERN ELECTRIC CHARITY NOVICE HURDLE (Div 2) 2m 1f 110yds £2,405

1	PP	COME ON RISK ME (28) D McCain 5-11-4	D McCain
2	30	CONDIMAIRE (30) Martyn Wane 5-11-4	J Callaghan
3	15220-	GENERAL'S ORDERS (281) J Norton 5-11-4	W Fry
4	0	HOWYOUDOING (14) M Barnes 6-11-4	P Waggott
5	0-06	OVER STATED (37) P Cheesbrough 6-11-4	R Supple
6	26	SUNDERLAND ECHO (57) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4	P Niven
7	0	WAKING (20) J FitzGerald 5-11-4	M Dwyer
8	0	MISS MILLIPEDE (46) T Etherington 5-10-13	R Rourke (7)
9	0P	AMBIDEXTROUS (11) E Alston 4-10-6	L Wyer ★
10		HERE COMES HERBIE W Storey 4-10-6	M Moloney
11	500	MITHRAIC (11) W Cunningham 4-10-6	N Smith
12	0	PERFECT BERTIE (67) Mrs M Kendall 4-10-6	E Husband (3)
13	0	ROY BOY (12) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-6	G Cahill (7)
14	0	TIRA HEIGHTS (8) J O'Neill 4-10-6	A Roche (3)

TOP FORM TIPS: Sunderland Echo 8, Mithraic 7, Howyoudoing 6

Betting: 4-5 Sunderland Echo, 8-1 Howyoudoing, Tira Heights, 12-1 Miss Millipede, Mithraic, General's Orders, 16-1 Roy Boy, Waking, 25-1 Ambidextrous. 14 runners.

2.40 WINTER SPORTS MAIDEN CHASE 3m 3f £3,647

1	405-U04	BUSY BOY (38) D Lamb 9-11-5	A Manners (7)
2	D/P032-4	CALL THE SHOTS (58) J Wade 7-11-5	K Jones
3	60P-P	CANAILLOU II (74) Mrs S Bramall 6-11-5	J Burke
4	00/1-	CHARLIE TRUMPER (1003) W McKeown 8-11-5	G Cahill (7)
5	30-U336	DALUSMAN (12) J Birkett 8-11-5	M Moloney
6	004-0P5	EXCISE MAN (11) F Walton 8-11-5	Mr A Robson
7	3F5F6/-4	FINCH'S GEM (46) G Richards 8-11-5	A Dobbin
8	0P	GIVE IT LALDY (4) L Lungo 6-11-5	T Reed
9	342P-64	GO SILLY (8) B Ellison 10-11-5	B Harding (3)
10		OYKEL RIVER Miss S Williamson 8-11-5	D Ryan (7)
11	P54-256	VILLAINS BRIEF (15) K Burke 7-11-5	A Larnach (3) ★
12	3P-F600	SAGARO BELLE (8) A Crow 10-11-0	P Waggott
13	0P	VITAL DECISION (13) N Lampard 7-11-0	Guy Lewis (3)

TOP FORM TIPS: Go Silly 8, Finch's Gem 7, Call The Shots 6

Betting: 2-1 Finch's Gem, 9-4 Call The Shots, 9-2 Go Silly, 6-1 Dalusman, 10-1 Villains Brief, 20-1 Give It Laldy, 25-1 Oykel River, Sagaro Belle. 13 runners.

3.10 CURLING HANDICAP CHASE 2m 1f £2,824

1	623124	FLASH OF REALM (14) P Monteith 10-12-0	A Dobbin
2	23P24-0	KANNDABIL (8) (D) N Tinkler 9-11-7	M Dwyer ★
3	22P-605	TRESIDDER (13) (CD) M W Easterby 14-11-4	R Garritty
4	000513-	BISHOPDALE (238) (CD) S Chadwick 15-10-9	D Bentley
5	2233PP	GORTNAMONA (35) J Brisley 10-10-8	B Storey
6	4-13243	BRIAR'S DELIGHT (14) R Allan 8-10-6	S Melrose (7) ★
7	4P-0354	NORTH PRIDE (40) M Barnes 11-10-1	B Harding (3)
8	35-2335	CIRCULATION (38) (D) D McCain 10-10-1	D Walsh (3)
9	035/-684	MACCONACHIE (8) M Dods 9-10-0	N Smith
10	P/35-340	BAD TRADE (48) D Alder 14-10-0	A Manners (7)
11	2-65425	FULL SHILLING (32) K Burke 7-10-0	A Larnach (3)
12	532236	DOXFORD HUT (8) W McKeown 12-10-0	G Cahill (7)

TOP FORM TIPS: Briar's Delight 8, Doxford Hut 7, Circulation 6

Betting: 5-2 Briar's Delight, 7-2 Flash Of Realm, 6-1 Kanndabil, 8-1 Macconachie, Tresidder, 10-1 Circulation, 12-1 Bishopdale, Doxford Hut. 12 runners.

3.40 ACROPOLA HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 3f 110yds £2,758

1	31U050	ADRIAN (8) Mrs S Bramall 5-12-0	A K Smith (7) ★
2	48U/FP-P	MR OPTIMISTIC (20) F Murtagh 9-11-7	A Dobbin
3	355320	FORWARD GLEN (11) P Cheesbrough 9-11-4	R Supple
4	2-36000	MONARU (11) (C) Mrs M Reveley 10-11-4	P Niven
5	226-603	D'ARBLAY STREET (12) (CD) W Kemp 7-11-1	B Storey ★
6	020-231	NEW CHARGES (35) P Beaumont 9-11-0	B Grattan (7)
7	PB5-1P1	GOLDEN NUGGET (38) E Alston 9-10-11	L Wyer
8	0544-16	SIERRA MADRONA (38) Mrs A Swinbank 6-10-11	J Railton
9	050-601	HIGH PENHOWE (20) (C) J Quinn 8-10-4	M Dwyer
10	16-3225	GOLDMIRE (68) (BF) W Tinning 6-10-3	D Parker (3)

TOP FORM TIPS: Golden Nugget 8, Sierra Madrona 7, Forward Glen 6

Betting: 7-2 Golden Nugget, 9-2 Sierra Madrona, 11-2 D'Arblay Street, 6-1 New Charges, 7-1 Forward Glen, 8-1 High Penhowe, 10-1 Adrian, Monaru. 10 runners.

4.10 SKI-ING 'NH' MARES' ONLY NOVICE HURDLE 2m 1f 110yds £2,635

1	30-F000	ANASTASIA WINDSOR (16) D Moffatt 5-11-4	D J Moffatt ★
2	03-65U3	BIBBY BEAR (193) G Kelly 7-11-4	Mr C Mulhall ★
3		CAMDEN LASS Mrs A Naughton 10-11-4	M Foster
4	00/-	CEDAR LEAF (648) R McDonald 8-11-4	K Jones
5	00P-00	CLOVER GIRL (7) B Ellison 5-11-4	B Harding (3)
6	P	DEAR EMILY (30) J Swiers 8-11-4	Mr S Swiers
7	2-22	DECENT PENNY (30) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4	P Niven
8	0///-4	DERRY'S DELIGHT (30) T Etherington 8-11-4	L Wyer
9	30-240	GALLANTS DELIGHT (13) M Barnes 6-11-4	P Waggott
10	0-0	GAME POINT (20) D Lamb 7-11-4	A Manners (7)
11	5	LAMBRINI (70) D McCain 6-11-4	D McCain
12	PP06-03	MEADOWBURN (20) W Reed 6-11-4	T Reed
13		MIDDLEHAM PEARL P Beaumont 6-11-4	R Supple
14	060-360	MISS LAMPLIGHT (13) F Murtagh 6-11-4	A Dobbin
15		NITE SPRITE R Barr 6-11-4	N Smith
16		NORTON GALE J Norton 5-11-4	W Fry
17	06-00	STORMHILL AMAZON (94) T Tate 5-11-4	R Garritty
18	U0/F-	YOUNG GALA (368) J Birkett 7-11-4	M Moloney

TOP FORM TIPS: Gallants Delight 8, Meadowburn 7, Bibby Bear 6

Betting: 7-4 Decent Penny, 7-2 Gallants Delight, 6-1 Meadowburn, 8-1 Miss Lamplight, 10-1 Bibby Bear, 14-1 Middleham Pearl, Stormhill Amazon, 16-1 Lambrini. 18 runners.

Wolverhampton (All-weather Flat)

2.00 Rizal
2.30 Berge
3.00 Kintwyn
3.30 Autumn
4.00 Stevie's Wonder
4.30 Cheeky Chappy

★ Denotes blinkers. Going: Standard.

2.00 HADDOCK MAIDEN STAKES 6f £3,067

1	400-	CALL TOPHORSE (212) C Murray 4-9-10	M Tebbutt 8
2	300-	GIFTBOX (128) M Prescott 4-9-10	M Rimmer 3
3		RIZAL D Murray Smith 4-9-10	J Weaver 13
4	440055-	PATS DELIGHT (162) S Coathup 4-9-5	T Williams 8
5	50-	COASTGUARDS HERO (179) M Usher 3-8-8	M Wigham 1
6		DUMMER GOLF TIME Lord Huntingdon 3-8-8	T Ives 2
7	0-	EBEN NAAS (37) S Williams 3-8-8	J Tate 7
8	002-	FARMOST (40) M Prescott 3-8-8	C Nutter 11
9		HEATHYARDS ROSE R Hollinshead 3-8-3	F Lynch (7) 6
10	5	HIGHLAND FAWN (14) B McMahon 3-8-3	L Newton (3) 10
11		OAKLEY FOLLY R Hollinshead 3-8-3	N Carlisle 4
12	0-0	RADMORE BRANDY (16) N Littmoden 3-8-3	J Bramhill (7) 5
13	0-0	ROXANE (14) A Bailey 3-8-3	D Wright (3) 12

TOP FORM TIPS: Farmost 8, Pats Delight 6

Betting: 2-1 Rizal, 9-4 Farmost, 6-1 Dummer Golf Time, 8-1 Giftbox, 10-1 Highland Fawn, Eben Naas, 25-1 Pats Delight, Roxane, Coastguards Hero. 13 runners.

2.30 MACKEREL CLAIMING GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES 7f £2,871

1	3/2215-0	EVERSET (21) (CD) A Bailey 8-9-2	D Wright (3) 5
2	034-166	RAMBO WALTZER (8) (D) D Nicholls 4-9-2	Alex Greaves 3
3	0245/5-0	SHAHIK (7) J O'Shea 6-9-2	J Quinn 8★
4	01381-1	BERGE (9) (D) W O'Gorman 5-9-0	Emma O'Gorman 2★
5	02140-6	JIGSAW BOY (14) (C) (BF) P Murphy 7-8-12	S Drowne (3) 4
6	5550-13	SENSE OF PRIORITY (12) (C) (D) (BF) D Nicholls 7-8-8	M Tebbutt 7
7	08500-0	LIFE IS PRECIOUS (21) R Hollinshead 4-8-7	M Wigham 11
8	3660-40	BEST KEPT SECRET (6) P Evans 5-8-4	D Sweeney (7) 1★
9	44000-5	PROMISE FULFILLED (14) A Bailey 5-8-6	Iona Wands (7) 9
10	00/000/-	PERSIAN GUSHER (566) (D) N Smith 6-8-2	N Carlisle 6
11	000-005	REX BILL (6) (CD) D Haydn Jones 4-7-11	A Mackay 10★

TOP FORM TIPS: Berge 8, Everset 7, Sense Of Priority 6

Betting: 7-4 Berge, 5-1 Rambo Waltzer, 6-1 Everset, Sense Of Priority, 8-1 Promise Fulfilled, 9-1 Jigsaw Boy, 12-1 Best Kept Secret, 16-1 Shahik. 11 runners.

3.00 SALMON HANDICAP 1m 1f 79yds £3,614

1	3301/-02	MAKE A NOTE (7) P Evans 5-10-0	J Fortune 9
2	00345-4	KOMREYEV DANCER (14) (C) A Bailey 4-9-12	D Wright (3) 7
3	301215-	HILLZAH (187) (C) R Bastiman 8-9-11	H Bastiman (5) 11
4	42-1112	MAPLE BAY (7) (CD) A Bailey 7-9-8	P Roberts (7) 2
5	212610/-	P G TIPS (662) (C) Mrs N Macauley 5-9-6	S D Williams 3
6	60/0500-	RAINBOW WALK (306) (C) J O'Shea 6-9-5	J Quinn 6★
7	1645-22	HIGH PREMIUM (14) R Fahey 8-9-4	A Culhane 13
8	1000-00	MANABAR (6) M Polglase 4-9-3	M Rimmer 12
9	05006-3	KINTWYN (14) (CD) C Elsey 6-9-2	M Tebbutt 1
10	4950/-	ORCHESTRAL DESIGNS (546) G Ham 5-8-12	S Drowne (3) 8
11	5220-0	FIELD OF VISION (16) (BF) M Johnston 6-8-11	J Weaver 4
12	461030-	DESERT POWER (46) D Burchell 7-8-8	D McKeown 5
13	5056-52	SNAKE PLISSKEN (9) D Haydn Jones 5-7-10	A Mackay 10

TOP FORM TIPS: Manabar 8, Kintwyn 7, Maple Bay 6

Betting: 7-2 Maple Bay, 5-1 Komreyev Dancer, 6-1 Kintwyn, 7-1 Make A Note, Hillzah, 8-1 High Premium, Field Of Vision, 9-1 Snake Plissken, 14-1 Manabar. 13 runners.

3.30 TROUT HANDICAP 3YO 1m 100yds £5,882

1	3301-	LE SPORT (48) (C) A Bailey 9-7	D Wright (3) 8
2	0412-5	VICTIM OF LOVE (20) (C) R Charlton 9-2	J Weaver 1
3	6000-11	CHINA CASTLE (16) P Haslam 8-12	J Fortune 4
4	460000-	GALAPINO (79) C Brittain 8-8	M Larsen 7
5	040-	AUTUMN (135) C Murray 8-6	M Tebbutt 6
6	36031-2	THEATRE MAGIC (19) (BF) S Bowring 8-4	C Teague (5) 3★
7	5454-6	LADY DIGNITY (19) P Makin 8-4	J Quinn 2
8	00121-2	DOMOOR (13) (CD) M Johnston 8-0	T Williams 9
9	35230-3	SCENICRIS (21) R Hollinshead 7-11	N Carlisle 5

TOP FORM TIPS: Galapino 8, Domoor 7, Victim Of Love 6

Betting: 7-2 Domoor, 4-1 China Castle, 5-1 Theatre Magic, 7-1 Victim Of Love, 8-1 Scenicris, Le Sport, 10-1 Autumn, Galapino, 12-1 Lady Dignity. 9 runners.

4.00 SHRAN SELLING STAKES 1m 7f £3,180

1	00/6200-	CASTLE SECRET (85) D Burchell 10-9-3	D McKeown 11
2	3658-35	DUGGAN (8) P Evans 9-9-3	D Sweeney (7) 9
3	42204-3	EL NIDO (12) (BF) M Camacho 8-9-3	L Charnock 1
4	40124-	STEVIE'S WONDER (64) M Ryan 6-9-3	R Hardwell 2★
5	00226-5	WAHEM (13) C Brittain 6-9-3	M Larsen 8
6	400005-	HILL FARM KATIE (43) W Brisbourne 5-8-12	R Cochrane 5
7		MUSICAL VOCATION B Preece 5-8-12	V Slattery 7
8	36430-0	ACQUITTAL (12) J Mackie 4-8-11	R Varley (3) 12★
9	142320-	BUSHEHR (130) S Coathup 4-8-11	J Weaver 3
10	0/2000-0	RANGER SLOANE (7) G Fierro 4-8-11	M Wigham 6
11	0040-04	FOOLS OF PRIDE (12) (CD) R Hollinshead 4-8-6	F Lynch (7) 4
12	0-0	FRAISE DU ROI (11) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-6	Aimee Cook (7) 10★

TOP FORM TIPS: Bushehr 8, El Nido 7, Stevie's Wonder 6

Betting: 5-2 El Nido, 11-4 Stevie's Wonder, 6-1 Bushehr, 8-1 Waham, Fools Of Pride, 10-1 Acquittal, 12-1 Castle Secret, Fraise Du Roi, 14-1 Hill Farm Katie. 12 runners.

4.30 LADBROKE SERIES HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) 5f £3,744

1	100000-	CRYSTAL LOOP (43) (C) (D) A Bailey 4-10-0	D Wright (3) 4
2	40046-8	LORD SKY (14) (CD) A Bailey 5-9-12	R Cochrane 3★
3	620230-	KALAR (41) (D) D Chapman 7-9-10	A Culhane 9★
4	020423-	KING RAMBO (102) (CD) R Hollinshead 5-9-9	T Ives 7
5	1320-34	CHADWELL HALL (14) (CD) (BF) S Bowring 5-9-7	C Teague (5) 6★
6	0220-33	FEATHERSTONE LANE (14) (D) Miss L Siddall 5-9-8	D McKeown 8★
7	0002-02	DISTANT DYNASTY (13) (C) (D) B Pearce 6-9-0	T Ashley (7) 10
8	311352-	SOUTHERN DOMINION (37) (CD) M Johnston 4-9-0	J Weaver 5★
9	6113-12	CHEEKY CHAPPY (14) (CD) (BF) D Chapman 5-9-0	P Fessey (5) 2★
10	08040-2	THE INSTITUTE BOY (21) (D) Miss J Craze 6-8-7	N Kennedy 11
11	30001-0	BAJAN FRONTIER (14) (CD) F Lee 4-8-4	N Carlisle 1

TOP FORM TIPS: Lord Sky 8, Cheeky Chappy 7, The Institute Boy 6

Betting: 7-2 Cheeky Chappy, 9-2 Featherstone Lane, 5-1 Southern Dominion, 6-1 Distant Dynasty, 8-1 Chadwell Hall, 9-1 King Rambo, The Institute Boy, 10-1 Lord Sky, 12-1 Bajan Frontier. 11 runners.

Folkestone with form for the Jackpot races

1.20 Miroswaki
1.50 UBU VAL (nap)
2.20 Knyaz
2.50 Arctic Life
3.20 Sparkling Spirit
3.50 Ashby Hill
4.20 Rocco

Going: Chase, Good; Hurdles, Good to soft. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since latest NH outing.

1.20 NORTHIAM NOVICE HURDLE 2m 1f 110yds £2,616

101	422-1	OBAN (19) Miss H Knight 6-11-11	J F Titley
102	0-05	BUCKLAND LAD (24) D Grissell 6-11-4	J R Kavanagh
103	24	HARDING (60) S Mellor 5-11-4	N Mann
104		IT'S A GEM J Gifford 7-11-4	P Hide
105	4	LIBERTARIAN (48) O Sherwood 6-11-4	M Richards
106	50P	MASKED MARTIN (9) P Rodford 5-11-4	S Burrough ★
107	5-6446	MEAD COURT (13) Noel T Chance 6-11-4	R Johnson (3)
108	F0-2	MIROSWAKI (21) R Akehurst 6-11-4	S Ryan (7)
109	030-650	NAHRAWALI (94) A Moore 5-11-4	B Powell
110		NORTHERN KINGDOM K Bailey 7-11-4	A Thornton
111		THE LITTLE FERRET A Moore 6-11-4	A P McCoy
112		LADY MERE J Tuck 5-10-13	S McNeill
113	002/-0	SURGICAL SPIRIT (43) J Homewood 6-10-13	F Cooper (7)
114	41	TONYS GIFT (15) M Pipe 4-10-6	J Osborne
115	F	ALL OVER RED ROVER (55) A Carroll 4-10-6	W Marston
116	00	DANCE KING (38) R Harris 4-10-6	V Smith
117	00	MONUMENT (8) J King 4-10-6	G Upton
118	0	MORE BILLS (74) A Moore 4-10-6	M Batchelor (7)
119	40	THE QUADS (21) J Ffitch-Heyes 4-10-6	
120		TOPANGA J Bennett 4-10-6	L Harvey

TOP FORM TIPS: Miroswaki 8, Tonys Gift 7, Oban 6

Betting: 7-4 Tonys Gift, 2-1 Miroswaki, 9-2 Oban, 12-1 Harding, Libertarian, The Quads, 16-1 Northern Kingdom, *The Little Ferret, 20-1 Buckland Lad, Its A Gem* 20 runners

FORM GUIDE - OBAN: Held up, effort from 3 out, led next, bt Glitter Isle by 10l (Towcester 2m, Sft).
MIROSWAKI: Led 5 out until last, 30l 2nd to Kingdom of Shades (Lingfield 2m4f, Hvy).
TONYS GIFT: Led 4 out, won easily by 8l from Baroncelli (Leicester 2m, Hvy).

1.50 WESTENHANGER NOVICE CHASE 3m 2f £2,206

201	0/5/-13	UBU VAL (13) W Bethell 10-11-10	A S Smith
202	0/-05	BLACK HILL (63) John Berry 7-11-4	I Lawrence
203	P030-60	BRINDLEY HOUSE (7) J White 9-11-4	P McLoughlin
204	8	BUCKLE DOWN (43) K Bailey 7-11-4	A Thornton
205	005-PPF	CAPTAIN DOLFORD (7) D Gandolfo 9-11-4	D Leahy
206	000-	COUNTRY LORD (549) G J Houghton 7-11-4	G Hogan (3)
207	00-5FF	DUSKY ROVER (9) Miss H Knight 7-11-4	Mr J Culloty (7) ★
208	8P/P/-6	JAYEMTH (43) J Poulton 10-11-4	L Aspell (3)
209	/1235/-2	OCEAN LEADER (20) Mrs D Haine 9-11-4	J F Titley
210	05442-0	OJONNYO (31) M Bradstock 6-11-4	P Holley
211	2	THE BOOLEY HOUSE (20) O Sherwood 6-11-4	J Osborne
212	P0/04-3P	THE GOLFING CURATE (9) R Rowe 11-11-4	D O'Sullivan
213	3P-3U00	TITAN EMPRESS (7) S Mellor 7-10-13	N Mann

TOP FORM TIPS: Ubu Val 8, Ocean Leader 7, The Booley House 6

Betting: 7-4 Ubu Val, 9-4 The Booley House, 11-4 Ocean Leader, 10-1 The Golfing Curate, 16-1 Dusky Rover, 20-1 Titan Empress, Brindley House, Buckle Down. 13 runners

FORM GUIDE - UBU VAL: Behind until headway 6 out, no extra from 4 out, 3rd of 5 finishers, btn 21l to Mr Mulligan (Wetherby 3m1f, Gd-Sft).
OCEAN LEADER: First run for almost 2 years, led 3 out, weakened app last, 2nd of 6 finishers, btn 7l by King Lucifer (Nottingham 3m1f, Gd).
THE BOOLEY HOUSE: Left in lead 4 out, headed flat, 1l 2nd of 7 finishers to Falcon Countryman (Nottingham 3m1f, Gd).

2.20 DAN SWINDEN SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 6f 110yds £2,044

301	1444-P4	NEW TRIBE (46) (D) J White 5-11-13	D Salter (7)
302	6404-60	CANFAX (8) (CD) R Hoad 11-11-13	G Bradley ★
303	0P-1600	KNYAZ (7) Mrs L Richards 6-11-5	Sophie Mitchell (3)
304	000-6P	EASTERN PLEASURE (18) K Burke 9-11-5	M A Fitzgerald ★
305	34021-P	DO BE WARE (8) J Ffitch-Heyes 6-11-3	J R Kavanagh
306	606	FULL QUIVER (50) Mrs B Waring 11-11-2	E Byrne ★
307	3544F6	ROGER'S PAL (48) A Moore 9-10-12	M Batchelor (7)
308	005845-	SAFFRON RIVER (317) W Turner 5-10-10	J Power (7) ★
309	6-30304	ITS GRAND (20) J Bradley 7-10-9	R Farrant
310	330-020	SIR CRUSTY (6) C Jones 14-10-9	G Upton
311	0000	PEPPERONIE (21) R Rowe 7-10-8	D O'Sullivan
312	001-P46	DAMCADA (19) (CD) (BF) A Carroll 8-10-5	W Marston
313	00/-006	THE TARTAN DYER (41) W Bethell 9-10-2	A S Smith
314	5/4036-0	LADY POLY (37) J Poulton 8-10-1	Leesa Long
315	P52P-UP	CELTIC LILLEY (7) R Hoad 6-10-0	B Fenton (3) ★
316	P4/-PPP	COAL NOT DOLE (16) J Upson 8-10-0	R Johnson (3) ★
317	FFP/PR-	NORTH BANNISTER (261) T McGovern 9-10-0	A P McCoy

TOP FORM TIPS: Sir Crusty 8, Its Grand 7, Roger's Pal 6

Betting: 6-1 Its Grand, 7-1 Knyaz, 8-1 New Tribe, Sir Crusty, 10-1 Roger's Pal, Do Be Ware, Damcada, 12-1 Full Quiver, Saffron River, North Bannister 17 runners

FORM GUIDE - FULL QUIVER: Mistakes and soon behind, btn 27l to Barney's Gift (Huntingdon 2m4f, Gd-Sft).
ROGER'S PAL: Behind from 5 out, tailed off 8th to Pravda Girl (Folkestone 2m6f, Gd).
ITS GRAND: Stayed on from 3 out, 4th of 15, btn 14l to Halle Derring (Nottingham 2m5f, Gd-Sft).
SIR CRUSTY: Penultimate start, btn 13l by Whatsbeenell, with DAMCADA (rec 7lb) another 13l away 6th (Towcester 2m6f, Hvy).

2.50 FESKE HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 1f 110yds £2,138

401	13-510F	FLEUR DE TAL (8) (D) W Turner 5-12-0	T C Murphy (7)
402	22-0050	SOPHIE MAY (7) (CD) G L Moore 5-11-13	E Murphy
403	31351/-0	BROWNSIDE BRIG (18) O Sherwood 11-11-12	J Osborne
404	001410	ARCTIC LIFE (10) J Jenkins 7-11-0	G Bradley
405	311-680	IL BAMBINO (10) H Manners 8-11-6	Mr A Wintle (7)
406	355345-	THOHOOL (382) (CD) R Rowe 8-11-4	D O'Sullivan
407	0-0P513	HAWTHORNE GLEN (15) (BF) Mrs M Long 9-10-13	B Fenton (5)
408	08-4020	NIGHT IN A MILLION (13) S Woodman 5-10-12	J F Titley
409	2/3-0500	GAVASKAR (13) G Balding 7-10-7	A P McCoy ★
410	3//-P000	RUN FAST FOR GOLD (13) (D) Miss H Knight 9-10-3	G F Ryan (5)
411	0P-6000	JAVA SHRINE (47) J Tuck 5-10-2	S McNeill
412	00P00	STARLIGHT FLYER (21) J Long 9-10-0	Leesa Long ★

TOP FORM TIPS: Night In A Million 8, Arctic Life 7, Fleur De Tal 6

Betting: 7-2 Night In A Million, 9-2 Fleur De Tal, 5-1 Brownside Brig, Arctic Life, 8-1 Hawthorne Glen, 10-1 Thohool, Gavaskar, 12-1 Il Bambino 12 runners

FORM GUIDE - FLEUR DE TAL: Held a slender lead when fell at the last flight in race won by Hightown Cavalier last week (Taunton 2m1f, Gd-Sft).
ARCTIC LIFE: Won by 4l from Broad Outlook penultimate run (Southwell 2m, Gd).
NIGHT IN A MILLION: Prominent to 3 out when 38l 8th of 15 finishers to Lying Eyes, with RUN FAST FOR GOLD (rec 4lb) sh hd back in 9th and GAVASKAR (rec 4lb) 40l 12th (Wincanton 2m, Gd-Sft).

3.20 DEAL MAIDEN CHASE 2m £2,603

501		CAPTAIN PINEAPPLE Mrs L Wadham 6-11-8	G Hogan (3)
502	84	CHURCHTOWN PORT (50) P Butler 6-11-8	M A Fitzgerald
503	0FP0/-5P	CRACKLING FROST (46) Mrs D Haine 8-11-8	J F Titley
504	4330/-3P	CREDON (16) S Woodman 8-11-8	A P McCoy
505	2-45	DANCING PIMPERNEL (200) P Rackham 10-11-8	A Tory
506	003-0UP	DRUMCULLEN (22) K Bailey 7-11-8	A Thornton
507	2PB3-22	EARLY DRINKER (6) O Sherwood 8-11-8	J A McCarthy
508	00//P5F-	FAMBRIDGE (356) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-8	W Marston
509	06-356	JOJO (18) D Grissell 8-11-8	M Richards
510	6/P3-323	POLICEMANS PRIDE (9) M Madgwick 7-11-8	B Fenton (5)
511	//P-3530	PRECIOUS WONDER (34) P Butler 7-11-8	T J Murphy (3)
512	0/42/-PF	THE WEST'S ASLEEP (21) J Ffitch-Heyes 11-11-8	R Johnson (3) ★
513	P/PP/-P	MIDNIGHT MYSTIC (7) Dr P Pritchard 9-11-3	P Pritchard
514	000-3F3	OUR NIKKI (51) P Rodford 6-11-3	S Burrough
515	34SP3-0	POLLY MINOR (30) G Enright 9-11-3	J R Kavanagh
516		SPARKLING SPIRIT N Gaselee 8-11-3	C Llewellyn

TOP FORM TIPS: Early Drinker 8, Policemans Pride 6

Betting: 13-8 Early Drinker, 8-1 Policemans Pride, 8-1 Jojo, Credon, 10-1 Sparkling Spirit, Fambridge, 12-1 Drumcullen, Dancing Pimpernel 16 runners

FORM GUIDE - DANCING PIMPERNEL: Not seen out since late June when 5th of 7, btn 17l to Express Travel over hurdles (Uttoxeter 3m4f, Gd-Fm).
EARLY DRINKER: Mistake 5 out, rallied well closing stages, btn 3l by Newhall Prince (Ludlow 2m, Gd).
FAMBRIDGE: Last ran over fences in May, 3rd and btn when fell last in race won by Sparkling Sunset (Worcester 2m4f, Gd).
JOJO: Rider lost whip in handicap hurdle on latest start, kept on one pace, 5th of 14 finishers, btn 17l to Goldenswift (Sandown 2m6f, Sft).
POLICEMANS PRIDE: Distant last of 3 finishers to Hag's Way (Fontwell 2m3f, Gd-Sft).

3.50 LEVY BOARD MARES' ONLY NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE 2m 1f 110yds £2,437

601	1-133PU	DARK NIGHTINGALE (11) O Sherwood 6-12-0	J Osborne
602	580	ASHBY HILL (11) R Rowe 5-11-10	D O'Sullivan
603	00-0	HARVEST VIEW (19) C Brooks 6-11-5	G Bradley
604	400-000	CHOWPOR (7) A Carroll 5-11-5	B Powell ★
605	121044	SAXON MAGIC (21) (D) J Bennett 6-11-2	Sophie Mitchell (5)
606	044-0	INDIAN SUMMIT (15) Mrs M Jones 6-10-11	D Byrne
607	60U/60-	ROMANY BLUES (431) A Jones 7-10-10	S Curran (3)
608	F50	LADY LACEY (13) G Balding 9-10-9	A P McCoy ★
609	058-5P0	WHAT'S THE JOKE (11) J Tuck 7-10-6	S McNeill
610	/UPP///-	DUKES HOPE (1472) Miss L Bower 8-10-0	Major O Ellwood
611	0-0PPFP	THE BIZZO (34) J Panvert 5-10-0	G Hogan (3)
612	5-060P0	FLY IN AMBER (53) D French Davis 5-10-0	I Lawrence

TOP FORM TIPS: Ashby Hill 8, Dark Nightingale 7, Lady Lacey 6

Betting: 11-4 Ashby Hill, 9-2 Dark Nightingale, 5-1 What's The Joke, 6-1 Indian Summit, 8-1 Lady Lacey, *Harvest View, 12-1 Saxon Magic, Romany Blues* 12 runners

FORM GUIDE - DARK NIGHTINGALE: Staying on in 2nd but seemed held when unseated rider 2 out in race won by Manolete (Warwick 2m, Gd-Sft).
ASHBY HILL: Headway 4 out, weakened quickly after next, 10th of 13 finishers, btn over 50l to Ashwell Boy (Ascot 3m1f, Sft).
HARVEST VIEW: With leaders, pulling hard, weakened app 3 out, 9th of 12 finishers, btn about 50l to Crack On (Towcester 2m, Sft).
SAXON MAGIC: Never placed to challenge when distant 4th to Tickerty's Gift (Lingfield 2m3f, Hvy).
LADY LACEY: Better effort penultimate start when 5th, btn around 30l bhd Master Beveled (Windsor 2m, Gd).

4.20 TED LONG CHALLENGE CUP AMATEUR RIDERS' H'CAP CHASE 2m 5f £2,960

1	3211/-14	ROYAL SQUARE (43) (D) G Harwood 10-12-0	Mrs A Perrett (3)
2	F2-P0F0	MAESTRO PAUL (6) J Gifford 10-11-11	P O'Keeffe (7)
3	3-0318F	CONTI D'ESTRUVAL (18) (D) G Balding 6-11-10	A Balding (7)
4	2/P3-1F	ROCCO (89) (BF) S Sherwood 9-11-9	M Fitzgerald (7)
5	40/4-11U	LE CHAT NOIR (12) (CD) D Grissell 13-11-7	M Armytage
6	24/-3225	KITTINGER (15) (D) Dr P Pritchard 15-11-6	P Pritchard (7)
7	F1223/-P	DEEPENDABLE (45) Mrs L Richards 9-11-3	J Durkan ★
8	4/-41P4	TRICKSOME (36) (D) Miss H Knight 9-11-2	J Culloty (7)
9	P4P-646	OPAL'S TENSPOT (7) J Bradley 9-10-12	M Daly (7)
10	6133U5	GREEN WALK (46) R Rowe 9-10-10	A Kinane (7)
11	1F4U3-0	SMILEY BUOY (40) J Mullins 8-10-4	P Henley (5)
12	334-213	RIVAGE BLEU (38) (BF) J King 9-10-3	M Rimell (5)
13	4-4552U	COOL CHARACTER (58) R Buckler 8-10-0	J Jukes (7)
14	433-P34	MIRAGE DANCER (91) (D) Miss C Caroe 13-10-0	G Baines
15	P6F6P-0	RHOMAN FUN (22) R Buckler 7-10-0	R Thornton (7)
16	0/P00-0	TOP MISS (228) A Neaves 7-10-0	D Maitland (7)
17	0/000//-	WINNAZAR (*581) J Old 9-10-0	J S-Osborne (7)

TOP FORM TIPS: Rocco 8, Le Chat Noir 7, Rivage Bleu 6

Betting: 5-2 Rocco, 4-1 Le Chat Noir, 11-2 Royal Square, 8-1 Conti D'Estruval, Rivage Bleu, 10-1 Kittinger, Tricksome, 16-1 Cool Character, Maestro Paul 17 runners

● Blinkered today for the first time: FOLKESTONE: 2.20 Coal Not Dole, Full Quiver; 2.50 Gavaskar; 3.50 Chowpor. WOLVERHAMPTON: 2.30 Shahik; 4.00 Acquittal, Fraise du Roi. SEDGEFIELD: 4.10 Anastasia Windsor.

Results

LEICESTER

1.00 (2m Hdle): 1, INCULCATE, J Osborne (5-1); **2, Buster Bob** (8-1); **3, Fantastic Fleet** (12-1). 11-10 fav Boss's Bank. 16 ran. 11, 5. (C Weedon) Tote: £6.10; £1.90, £2.50, £4.50. Dual F: £20.20. CSF: £44.43.

1.30 (2m Hdle): 1, FRONTAGER, J Osborne (13-2); **2, Mouse Bird** (11-8 fav); **3, Keen To The Last** (12-1). 13 ran. 6, 7. (C Egerton) Tote: £9.20; £4.10, £1.10, £1.70. Dual F: £6.70. CSF: £15.36. NR: Barbaroja.

2.00 (3m Ch): 1, CLASS OF NINETYTWO, A P McCoy (11-4 fav); **2, Killeany Cross** (6-1); **3, Pennine Pride** (11-2); **4, Inconclusive** (33-1). 16 ran. 2½, 15. (T Forster) Tote: £3.20; £2.00, £1.20, £1.10, £13.20. Dual F: £11.70. CSF: £20.63. Tricast: £82.30. Trio: £12.00.

2.30 (2m Hdle): 1, TOUCH SILVER, S Curran (4-1); **2, Strike-A-Pose** (3-1 fav); **3, Kirl's Rose** (7-1). 12 ran. 1½, 15. (H Manners) Tote: £6.60; £2.80, £1.40, £5.70. Dual F: £10.30. CSF: £18.27. Tricast: £79.07.

3.00 (2m 4f 110yds Ch): 1, BEAUCHAMP GRACE, Mr K Whelan (2-1 fav); **2, Pearl's Choice** (10-1); **3, Too Sharp** (11-2). 8 ran. Dist, 8. (Mrs S Bramall) Tote: £2.80; £1.10, £1.70, £2.00. Dual F: £9.70. CSF: £21.38. Trio: £28.50. NR: Rosie-B.

3.30 (2m 4f 110yds Hdle): 1, OURSLIMBRIDGE, B Powell (12-1); **2, Flat Top** (6-1); **3, Lead Vocalist** (7-1); **4, Derab** (10-1). 11-2 fav Twice A Night. 20 ran. 5, 1½. (A Carroll) Tote: £16.60; £4.20, £2.40, £2.70, £3.20. Dual F: £38.80. CSF: £91.00. Tricast: £530.90. Trio: £355.10. NR: Country Store.

4.00 (2m 4f 110yds Hdle): 1, ARITHMETIC, W Marston (9-2); **2, What's Your Story** (4-1 fav); **3, Shallow River** (12-1). 22 ran. ¾, 6. (Mrs J Pitman) Tote: £5.10; £2.00, £2.50, £11.00. Dual F: £9.30. CSF: £24.44. Trio: £80.80. NR: Balleys Bridge.

JACKPOT: Not won; £111,085.46 carried forward to Folkestone today.

QUADPOT: £20.50. **PLACEPOT:** £165.30.

MARKET RASEN

1.40 (3m Hdle): 1, ALCIAN BLUE, P Niven (11-2); **2, Hatcham Boy** (8-11 fav); **3, Balleys Bay** (3-1). 8 ran. 2½, 10. (M Hammond) Tote: £6.60; £1.50, £1.10, £1.10. Dual F: £3.70. CSF: £9.62. Trio: £1.40. NR: Cherry Stone, Kindakoola.

2.10 (2m 3f 110yds Hdle): 1, TARA RAMBLER, P Carberry (5-4 fav); **2, Slingsby** (5-1); **3, Speaker Weatherill** (5-1). 11 ran. ¾, 25. (Miss S Hall) Tote: £2.30; £1.30, £2.30, £1.10. Dual F: £5.80. CSF: £6.62. Trio: £5.20. NR: Wilman.

2.40 (2m 4f Ch): 1, CHIEF RAIDER, A S Smith (7-4 fav); **2, Artic Wings** (2-7); **3, Bendor Mark** (7-1). 8 ran. 5, hd. (J Wade) Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £2.20, £3.70. Dual F: £3.00. CSF: £5.84. Trio: £9.20. NR: Diesington Dane, Solba.

3.10 (3m Hdle): 1, YES MAN, J F Titley (11-8 fav); **2, Henry Cone** (9-4); **3, Britannia Mills** (20-1). 5 ran. 1½, 2. (Miss H Knight) Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £2.20. Dual F: £4.70. CSF: £4.87.

3.40 (2m 4f Ch): 1, MANEREE, J F Titley (7-4 fav); **2, Boston Rover** (2-1); **3, Zajira** (2-1). 5 ran. 6, 8. (N Callaghan) Tote: £2.70; £2.10, £1.90. Dual F: £4.80. CSF: £5.80. NR: Astings, Mo Ichi Do.

4.10 (2m 1f 110yds Flat): 1, ALZULU, M Dwyer (11-2); **2, Simple Simon** (6-4 fav); **3, Falcon's Image** (9-1). 15 ran. 1, 7. (J FitzGerald) Tote: £7.80; £2.20, £2.40, £1.60. Dual F: £20.80. CSF: £16.33. Trio: £36.30. NR: Dark Orchard.

QUADPOT: £3.40 **PLACEPOT:** £6.90.

LINGFIELD

1.50 (1m 4f): 1, EL VOLADOR, D Biggs (4-9 fav); **2, Northern Trial** (20-1); **3, Tartan Gem** (4-1). 7 ran. 2, ¾. (R O'Sullivan) Tote: £1.20; £1.00, £12.20. Dual F: £15.30. CSF: £10.22.

2.20 (1m): 1, ROWLANDSONS CHARM, N Adams (5-4 fav); **2, Mufti Franchise** (10-1); **3, Belle of Holland** (7-4). 9 ran. 3½, 1. (G L Moore) Tote: £1.60; £1.00, £2.90, £1.10. Dual F: £7.00. CSF: £14.11. Trio: £2.70.

2.50 (2m): 1, IKHTIRAA, N Carlisle (5-1); **2, Coleridge** (11-4); **3, Benfleet** (15-8 fav). 8 ran. 1½, 10. (R O'Sullivan) Tote: £7.40; £1.60, £1.10, £1.10. Dual F: £4.60. CSF: £18.72. Tricast: £31.73.

3.20 (6f): 1, MISS CAROTTENE, M Baird (10-1); **2, Sunset Harbour** (4-1); **3, Mystery Matthias** (12-1). 11-4 fav Belpare. 12 ran. Nk, 2. (M Ryan) Tote: £9.30; £1.60, £1.70, £3.20. Dual F: £81.30. CSF: £53.17. Tricast: £465.82.

3.50 (1m 2f): 1, KING OF TUNES, J Quinn (12-1); **2, Almuhtaram** (6-1); **3, Access Adventurer** (3-1 fav). 14 ran. ¾, hd. (J Sheehan) Tote: £22.70; £5.70, £3.40, £2.60. Dual F: £38.70. CSF: £84.30. Tricast: £258.35. Trio: £251.50.

4.20 (7f): 1, KING PARROT, Aimee Cook (4-1); **2, Dahiyah** (6-1); **3, Nattatch** (14-1). 11-4 fav Jaazim. 11 ran. ¾, 3. (Lord Huntingdon) Tote: £6.60; £1.70, £2.30, £3.50. Dual F: £21.50. CSF: £29.60. Tricast: £287.45.

QUADPOT: £68.40. **PLACEPOT:** £136.80.

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Soccer

Dalglish out of running for Ireland

Cynthia Bateman and Martin Thorpe

WHILE George Best was installed as a 1,000–1 outsider for Jack Charlton's old job as manager of the Republic of Ireland yesterday, the hot favourite Kenny Dalglish dropped out of the running.

There was some confusion over his reasons. Sean Connolly, the FA of Ireland chief executive, began the day by implying that Dalglish had ruled himself out of the job, adding that "he would prefer us not to speak to him at this stage".

Connolly subsequently claimed that it was Blackburn — not Dalglish — who had rejected the FAI approach. "It is disappointing but at the end of the day we realise what the realities of football life are and Kenny has obviously got a very important role to play with Blackburn and they feel they want to keep him."

FAI officials were due in London last night to begin interviewing their shortlist candidates Mick McCarthy, Joe Kinnear and Dave Bassett. "There will be no surprise names," said the FAI president Louis Kilcoyne, appearing to dismiss Best's late application.

Joe Royle has also ruled himself out of the job, saying that managing Everton is a full-time commitment.

McCarthy, who was Charlton's own choice as his replacement, is the favourite, a position improved by the recent decline in Millwall's form which exposed the manager to a vote of confidence from his chairman last week.

Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, is a former Irish international full-back who would dearly love the job. He has a get-out clause in his club contract in case he should be offered the position.

Bassett, unemployed after losing his job at Sheffield United, is considered a makeweight candidate and may find an offer from Crystal Palace more tempting.

The Republic will kick off their World Cup campaign with a trip to Liechtenstein, scene of the scoreless draw that effectively put the skids under their hopes of qualifying for this summer's European Championship.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: Group 8: 1996: Sat Aug 31 Liechtenstein (a). **Wed Oct 9** Macedonia (h). **Sun Nov 10** Iceland (h). **1997: Wed Apr 2** Macedonia (a). **Wed Apr 30** Romania (a). **Sat Jun 7** Liechtenstein (h). **Wed Aug 20** Lithuania (h). **Sat Sep 6** Iceland (a). **Wed Sep 9** Lithuania (a). **Wed Oct 11** Romania (h)

Adams of Arsenal earns his spurs

David Lacey sees thoroughbred quality in the defender once derided as a donkey

OF THE England team eliminated from the 1988 European Championship by Holland in Düsseldorf, Tony Adams would have been identified by few as the player most likely to be captaining the national side two tournaments later. After all, Marco van Basten had scored the first goal of his hat-trick in that game with a piece of skill that left Adams as flat and wooden as a broken deckchair.

Ignored by Bobby Robson for the 1990 World Cup and called up too late by Graham Taylor for the 1992 European Championship, Adams seemed fated to be cast as the man who never was.

Until now, that is. For since Terry Venables has been in charge of the England squad Adams's luck has changed. So much so that even if David Platt managed to get himself back to full form and fitness in time for Euro '96, all the signs are that Adams would retain the captain's armband.

Should England break the habits of a lifetime and actually win the European Championship, moreover, Adams would share with Bobby Moore the distinction of being the only English footballer to hold aloft a major international trophy. And though it is difficult to think of much else the two have in common, apart from being born in that part of Greater London which spills over into urbanised Essex, there can be no doubting Adams's equal commitment to England's cause.

His is a remarkable turnaround. It is just over five years since he was sent to prison for a drink-driving offence. At the time his future as Arsenal's captain was severely questioned. Internationally, he did not appear to have a future at all.

Yet soon after Adams's release Taylor restored him to England's defence for a European Championship game against the Republic of Ireland, and he appeared in most of the 1994 World Cup qualifiers. Venables not only retained Adams's services, he eventually made him captain.

Now 29, Adams has been capped 39 times and it is reasonable to assume that whatever happens in June he will be fundamental to England's next World Cup campaign. By then he will have played for England under two managers, Robson and Taylor, and two coaches — Venables and whoever the FA appoints next.

Rare is the player who will criticise in public anybody with powers of team selection. Yet Adams's admiration for Venables seemed genuine enough when the England squad assembled at Bisham Abbey this week in the wake of their coach's decision to stand down after the European Championship in order to concentrate on his courtroom battles.

Unsurprisingly, the captain wants Venables to stay. At the same time, however, he was able to add reasoned logic to mere loyalty.

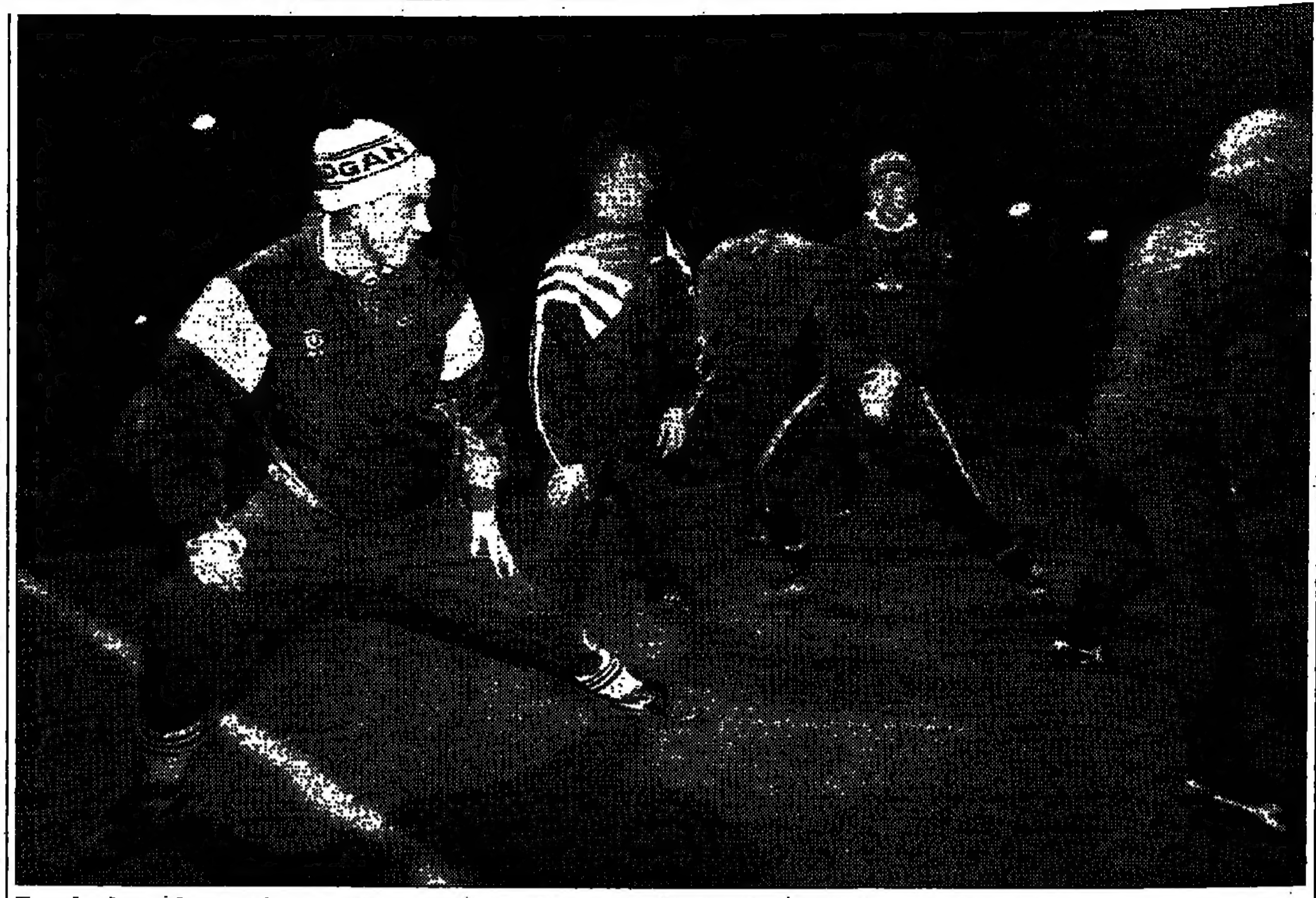
"Terry's laid down good foundations," he insisted. "There are a lot of good people here — Don Howe, Bryan Robson and others — people who are fully behind what Terry is doing. It would be a shame to mess it up."

Adams has a clear enough idea of what Venables is aiming at. "English football is all about blood, guts, fire and passion, which we've got in abundance," he explained. "Everyone who puts on an England shirt wants to go out and give it 100 per cent.

"But Terry has said: 'Look, just let's use the old brains, let's be sensible, let's educate the public.' We need to be well-organised and patient. You can be resilient and solid without being negative and boring." And the captain of Arsenal said this with a perfectly straight face.

"There are not a lot of bad sides out there any more," he added. "You can't just show up and think you're going to win. We got stick after the 0–0 in Norway but a lot of resilience was shown that night. Another team might have thrown caution to the wind and got severely done."

The presence of Adams at the heart of Venables's defence this summer should help minimise the danger of England being as severely undone as they were in 1988 and 1992. He will not have to face Van Basten, for one thing, which is the tournament's loss but good news for deck-chairs.



Knees bend . . . and none of them knocking, either. Raleigh Gowrie (left) and other Whitehill Welfare players in training PHOTOGRAPHS: MURDO MACLEOD

Disbelief is the Welfare state

But it's true: Whitehill's village team take on the mighty Celtic on Sunday. **Patrick Glenn** visits the Scottish Cup's long-shots

GIGANTISM is a relative condition. Gulliver was a colossus in Lilliput, a pygmy in Brobdingnag. Whitehill Welfare may be leviathans of the East of Scotland League, but they will become leprechauns on Sunday when they confront Celtic in the third round of the Tennents Scottish Cup.

Vulgar or not, money remains the most reliable gauge by which to measure the difference in status between football clubs. In a year, the paid players on Whitehill's roster of amateurs and semi-professionals earn only a fraction of what most of their opponents at Easter Road make in a week.

"Oh, around £700 or £800," is the mean annual income estimated by Dave Smith, who manages the little club from the Midlothian village of Rosewell, five miles south of Edinburgh.

The figure is likely to soar to around £1,500 this season, thanks to the munificence of a competition whose structure consistently allows the impossible dream to be realised. A crowd of about 15,000 at the home of Hibernian will be 100 times greater than the average number — mainly villagers and players' relatives — who regularly watch Whitehill in their own milieu.

If they think about it, the Whitehill players are entitled to a bigger bonus for a draw than a victory on Sunday, seeing that no fourth-round pairing apart from Rangers could be more lucrative than a third-round replay at Celtic Park.

For all the difference in stature, however, Smith and his players are more likely to be raised than fazed by the prospect of a collision with the Goliaths from Glasgow.

His is a team entitled to at least a hint of swagger as they go about their normal business. Currently holders of four of the five trophies available to them in a season, Whitehill have also won the Qualifying Cup (South) for the past three years, gaining entry to the first round proper of the Scottish Cup.

They have enjoyed some successful days against League opposition in the oldest and most romantic competition of all, but none to compare with the reward they will reap on Sunday for their successful second-round replay against Fraserburgh of the Highland League two weeks ago.

Nae bother . . . Whitehill's manager Dave Smith explains the game plan that will secure Celtic's downfall

Smith, who has been a manager since he succeeded Jim Jefferies — now in charge of the resurgent Hearts — at Gala Fairydean in 1989, is fond of claiming that he has more experience than his Celtic counterpart Tommy Burns. But if the Parkhead side are to be out-thought, the intelligence is likely to be supplied by Raleigh Gowrie, the Whitehill right-back who is as colourful as his name.

Among the motley bunch of joiners, roofers, postmen and clerical workers who make up Whitehill Welfare, Gowrie is the party turn. A true renaissance man, he is a graduate "with several degrees" who coaches tennis professionally at Stirling University and who has asked the Ibrox chairman David Murray for permission to write a Ph D thesis on "The Fall and Rise of Rangers Football Club".

He is also likely, as his manager testifies, to be the one who infuses the team with a sense of fun rather than dread before Sunday's kick-off.

"When we went up to Fraserburgh for the second-round replay," Smith recalled, "you can imagine how uptight everybody was. The third-round draw had already been made and we knew that the winners were to meet Celtic.

"Raleigh saw the tension among them. 'Look, reeelaaax, enjoy yourselves,' he said. 'Here, I'll give you a song.' He then went into this singing routine which broke the place up. I don't know if that's what did it, but we won.

"On the bus back home, of course, most of the guys were feeling no pain after having a few celebratory sherbets. Raleigh hardly drinks at all, but he took the mike and kept the bus going all the way back to Edinburgh.

"Just before the Fraserburgh match he went on a three-mile fell run. He said he didn't like it too much but did it because he hadn't tried it before.

"We also lost him for a couple of weeks recently when he toddled off to Las Vegas for a tennis seminar. Nice work, eh? But he does love his football, as they all do here, and he'll make sure we have another great day out at Easter Road."

Whitehill applied to have the tie switched to Celtic Park or even Hampden Park to maximise income and heighten the big-match atmosphere, but the Scottish FA insisted on the match going to the nearest certificated ground to Whitehill's quaint but inadequate Ferguson Park in Rosewell.

"I suppose that's the only disappointment where the lads are concerned," said Smith. "But it won't bother me personally. I've been a Hibs fan all my days and I'll be perfectly happy with Easter Road."

Asprilla on the way

Russell Thomas

KEVIN KEEGAN last night emerged from another round of talks in Italy confident that Parma's Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla would become Newcastle's record signing at £6.8 million by the weekend.

The latest negotiations appeared to overcome a hitch earlier yesterday when a Parma spokesman said "discussions are blocked", seemingly because Asprilla did not want to move to England.

But, after the latest talks with Keegan and three other Newcastle representatives, Parma's general director Gianbatista Pastorello said Asprilla was keen to join the Premiership leaders.

Pastorello said negotiations had gone extremely well. "Between the two clubs we have more or less agreed the fee that should be paid for Asprilla.

"Nothing has been signed at this stage but we are hopeful we can get a contract agreed within the next 48 to 72 hours.

"We will be seeing Newcastle again tomorrow because so far we have just had a general chat, but everything seems to be in agreement at this stage." Asprilla's £20,000-a-week wages are not considered a problem.

Keegan may also persist in his attempt to sign David Batty, even though Newcastle's £3.5 million offer for Blackburn's England midfielder was rejected yesterday.

Blackburn's owner Jack Walker is thought reluctant to let the midfielder go, but Batty may be allowed to leave if Keegan increases his offer by £500,000.

It is understood Arsenal too were rebuffed yesterday, over Blackburn's unsettled captain Tim Sherwood.

Samways stuck after missing out on Wolves and Birmingham

Ian Ross

EVERTON's unwanted midfielder Vinny Samways was in limbo yesterday after proposed moves to both Wolves and Birmingham collapsed.

Little more than 12 hours after being told he had not impressed the Wolves manager Mark McGhee after a month's loan at Molineux, Samways failed to agree terms with Birmingham.

The former German international full-back Michael Frontzeck has signed for Manchester City from Borussia Mönchengladbach for £350,000.

Sheffield United's midfielder Glyn Hodges, 32, will make his first start for Wales in almost four years in tonight's friendly with Italy in Terni.

● Real Madrid have appointed Arsenio Iglesias, formerly of Deportivo, as their coach, two days after sacking Jorge Valdano.

ITALY: Peruzzi; Ferrara, Carboni, Di Matteo, Costacurta, Apolloni, Di Livio, Albertini, Del Piero, Zola, Ravanelli.

WALES: Southall (Everton); **Jenkins** (Huddersfield), **Williams** (Reading), **Phillips** (Nottm Forest), **Symons** (Man C), **Coleman** (Blackburn), **Horne** (Everton), **Speed** (Leeds), **Hodges** (Sheffield U), **Hughes** (Chelsea), **Rush** (Liverpool)

FA Cup replay

Oldham 2, Barnsley 1

Latics enjoy cold comfort

Cynthia Bateman

ON A wild night in every sense, Darren Beckford's double took Oldham to victory over Barnsley for the first time in four meetings this season and earned a visit to the Second Division leaders Swindon in the Cup's fourth round on Saturday.

The striker's second-half penalty proved the winner after Barnsley had equalised his 18th minute header in a bad-tempered match.

Two gritty teams from the Pennine foothills on a black January night with Boundary Park on the windward side of England's spine and basking in a few Siberian zephyrs . . . this was never going to have the appeal of a sporting evening at Caesars Palace. Nevertheless it was some occasion and clad in the football equivalent of the slinky black dress — long-sleeved vest, thermal longjohns — there was still pleasure to be had.

Oldham produced some enticing moves despite opening against a strong wind, which at one stage looped Redmond's hefty clearance back on itself and returned the ball almost to the centre-half's feet. The best of the early attacking moves were sparked by Beckford, who linked with Halle playing wide right to find an easy route through the Barnsley defence.

This manoeuvre's first trial saw Beckford's pinpoint pass returned accurately enough but the striker hoofed the splendid chance over the bar.

Oldham's five-game goal drought went on when Halle, on the break, wasted another chance on the quarter-hour by hesitating to pass to Hughes who was running through the defence and screaming for the ball.

Three minutes later Beckford tried the Halle route again and this time put Oldham in front by confidently heading in the return cross.

But then in a classic what-not-to-do-next Oldham let in Barnsley, Liddell just failing to connect with Payton's glancing header. That was Barnsley's first chance but it was soon followed by a speculative 40-yarder from Sheridan which Gerrard saved easily despite the fickle wind.

Barnsley had the ball in the net just before half-time — but Payton was offside as he headed in.

Barnsley, five places above Oldham in the First Division and held to a scoreless draw in the original tie at Oakwell, soon made light of the wind when they turned round and began to follow the draughts through the Oldham defence.

Orlygsson tried to block the hole but brought down Redfearn on the edge of the area. His free-kick evaded both wall and goalkeeper to put Barnsley level on 57 minutes.

But Oldham were back ahead ten minutes later after a controversial incident in which Redfearn and Halle tangled in the penalty area. The unstoppable Beckford stepped up and struck the penalty crisply past Watson.

O'Connell and Archdeacon followed Gerrard and Liddell into the referee's book.

Oldham Athletic: Gerrard; Makin, Graham, Redmond, Serrant, Halle, Hughes, Orlygsson, Brennan, Beckford, Barlow.

Barnsley: Watson; Eaden, Davis, De Zeeuw, Moses, Sheridan, O'Connell, Redfearn, Archdeacon, Liddell, Payton.

Referee: G Cain (Bootle).

Results

Soccer

ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP

Semi-final

Ipswich (1) 2	**Port Vale** (2) 4
Gregory 43	Naylor 45, 45, 75
Mason 87	Foyle 90
5,831	

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE

Second Division

Blackpool (1) 1	**Wycombe** (0) 1
Preece 27	De Souza 75
3,877	
Hull (0) 0	**Brighton** (0) 0
2,421	
Rotherham (0) 2	**Bradford C** (0) 0
Breckin 63	3,052
Roscoe 68	
Wrexham (0) 0	**Bristol C** (0) 0
2,673	

Third Division

Mansfield (1) 2	**Cambridge Utd** (0) 1
Sale 38	Raynor 84
Sherlock 58	1,801
Plymouth (0) 1	**Scunthorpe** (2) 3
Logan 89	Hope 20, Turnbull 35
4,712	McFarlane 81
Scarborough (0) 1	**Rochdale** (0) 1
Trebble 68	Peake 69
1,400	

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Premier Division

Falkirk (0) 0	**Motherwell** (1) 1
3,500	McLaughlin 36 (og)
Kilmarnock (0) 1	**Aberdeen** (1) 1
Wright 82	Irvine 4
6,703	
Raith (0) 0	**Partick** (0) 2
3,651	R McDonald 73, 89

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

First Division

Airdrie (0) 0	**Greenock Morton** (1) 2
1,605	Lilley 26
	Lindberg 87
Dumbarton (1) 1	**Dundee** (0) 2
Ward 24	Hamilton 56, 73
737	
St Johnstone (1) 3	**Clydebank** (1) 1
Scott 33, 84	Grady 45
O'Boyle 55 (pen)	2,165

Second Division

Forfar (1) 2	**Montrose** (0) 1
Hannigan 11	McGlashan 76 (pen)
Bowes 74	589
Queen of South (0) 3	**Berwick** (0) 0
Mallan 58, 79	840
Bryce 89	
Stenhousemuir (1) 2	**East Fife** (1) 2
Hunter 9	Dwarika 5 Gibb 84 (pen)
Hutchison 56	800

Third Division

Brechin (2) 3	**Alloa** (0) 0
Ross 13, 71 McNeill 44	349
Caledonian (1) 1	**Ross County** (0) 1
Stewart 15	Milne 76
4,931	

FA TROPHY: First-round replays: Altrincham 2 Colwyn Bay 0; Chorley 2, Boston Utd 1; Emley 3, Morecambe 1, Northwich 2 Hednesford Tn 0 **Postponed:** Welling v Rothwell Tn — waterlogged pitch.

PONTINS LEAGUE: First Division: Everton 0, Nottm Forest 1, Notts Co 1, Derby 1. **Third Division:** Chesterfield 2, Chester 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: Portsmouth 1, Southampton 1; QPR 1, Oxford Utd 0; Watford 0, Norwich 1.

Rugby Union

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: First Division: Swansea 13, Pontypridd 9; Llanelli 39, Ebbw Vale 9.

WRU MIDWEEK COMPETITION: Pool A: Postponed: Blaina v Pontypool (Blaina withdrawn from competition). **Cancelled:** Cross Keys v Abercynon **Pool B:** Dunvant 72, Tenby Utd 12; Narberth 3, Llandovery 19. **Pool C:** Llanharan 24, South Wales Police 15. **Cancelled:** Cardiff Inst v Caerphilly. **Pool D:** Bonymaen 18 Maesteg 36; Tondu 6, Ystradgynlais 30

Tennis

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Melbourne): **Quarter-finals: Men: M Chang** (US) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 6–0, 6–2, 6–4. J Courier (US) leads A Agassi (US) 5–4 (to continue today due to rain) **Doubles: S Edberg/P Korda** (Swe/Cz) bt R Leach/S Melville (US) 6–4, 6–4, 7–5, **G Forget/J Hlasek** (Fr/Switz) bt M Knowles/D Nestor (Bah/Can) 6–4, 1–6, 6–3 6–3.

Women: M Seles (US) bt I Majoli (Croatia) 6–1, 6–2; **C Rubin** (US) bt A Sanchez Vicario (Spi 6–4, 2–6, 16–14. **Doubles: L Davenport/M Joe Fernandez** (US) bt L Raymond/G Sabatini (US/Arg) 6–3, 4–6, 6–2. **M McGrath/L Neiland** (US/Lat) bt E Makarova/E Maniokova (Rus) 6–0, 3–6, 6–3. **N Arendt/M Bollegraf** (US/Neth) bt Y Basuki/C Vis (Indo/Neth) 6–1, 2–6, 7–5.

Alpine Skiing

WORLD CUP (Valloire) **Men's super-giant slalom:** 1 H Knauss (Aut) 1min 01.29sec, 2, A Skaardal (Nor) 1 01.55, 3, F Nyborg (Swe) 1 01.57; 4, G Mador (Aut) 1 01 63; 5, A Fattori (It) 1.01 71, 6=, D Rahlves (US), L Alphand (Fr) 1 01 72, 8, K Andre Aamodt (Nor) 1.01.92; 9, P Runggaldier (It) 1.01.93, 10, K Ghedina (It) 1.02.01. **Standings:** 1 Skaardal 200pts; 2, Knauss 189; 3, L Kjus (Nor) 180; 4, Nyberg 141, 5, R Kroell (Aut) 125; 6, Fattori 95; 7 Runggaldier 89; 8, P Vitalini (It) 84 9, Ghedina 79; 10, Alphand 76. **Also:** 49, G Bell (GB) 1.04.23 **Overall:** 1, Kjus 956pts; 2, Mador 753; 3, M von Gruenigen (Switz) 726, 4, Knauss 666; 5, A Tomba (It) 616, 6, Nyberg 525, 7, Alphand 506; 8, S Amiez (Fr) 435. **Also:** 133, Bell 6

Badminton

SOUTH KOREAN OPEN (Seoul): **First day: Selected: Men: A Andropov** (Rus) bt P Knowles (GB) 15–8, 15–6, **D Hall** (GB) bt J Laugesen (Den) 18–14, 15–6

Basketball

NBA: Atlanta 105, Houston 96, Miami 96, San Antonio 89; Milwaukee 92, Vancouver 100.

Chess

HOOGOVENS TOURNAMENT (Wijk aan Zee, Neth): **Round eight:** I Sokolov (Bos) 0 M Adams (Eng) 1; J Piket (Neth) 1, A Shirov (Spi 0; other games drawn. **Leaders:** V Ivanchuk (Ukr) 5½; V Anand (Ind), S Tiviakov (Rus) 5; V Topalov (Bul), A Dreev (Rus), Sokolov 4½. **Also:** Adams 3½

Ice Hockey

NHL: Montreal 1, Tampa Bay 4, NY Rangers 3, Los Angeles 1; Ottawa 3, Chicago 7, Philadelphia 1, Florida 1 (OT); Pittsburgh 7 Boston 6 (OT); Colorado 4, NY Islanders 3, VancouveR 4, Dallas 6.

Motor Sport

MONTE CARLO RALLY: Leading placings (after 12 timed stages). 1, P Bernardini (Fr) Ford Escort 3hr 28min 41sec; 2, F Delecour (Fr) Peugeot 306 at 2min 31sec. 3 A Schwarz (Ger) Toyota Celica 3 56, 4, B Beguin (Fr) Subaru Impreza 8.49; 5, C Baroni (Fr) Subaru Impreza 10.44, 6, Y Postel (Neth) Subaru Impreza 11.21; 7, D Ducruet (Fr) Lancia Delta 14 48, 8, M Verini (It) Lancia Delta 16 29; 9, Y Vasin (Rus) Opel Astra 18.44.

Fixtures

(7.30 unless stated)

Soccer

INTERNATIONAL: Italy v Wales (Terni).

COCA-COLA CUP: Quarter-final replay: Birmingham v Norwich (7 45).

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE: First Division: Sunderland v Grimsby (7 45).

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First Division: Hamilton v St Mirren **Second Division:** Stirling v Clyde.

FA TROPHY: First-round replay: Gateshead v Kidderminster (7 45).

FA VASE: Fourth-round second replay: Selby Tn v Trafford.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First Division: Bradford PA v Farsley Celtic.

ICIS LEAGUE: Second Division: Witham Tn v Wivenhoe Tn **Third Division:** Harlow Tn v Northwood

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern Division: Havant Tn v Clevedon Tn.

N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE: First Division: Prescot v Glossop NE.

PONTINS LEAGUE: First Division: Blackburn v Sheff Wed (7.0); Bolton v Man Utd (7.0); Leeds v Tranmere (7 0); Oldham v Stoke (7.0). **Second Division:** Barnsley v Hull (7.0); Blackpool v Mansfield (7 0), Huddersfield v Preston (7.0), Leicester v York (7.0); Man C v Rotherham (6.45); Middlesbrough v Coventry (7.0); Port Vale v Burnley (7.0). **Third Division:** Bury v Walsall (7.0), Darlington v Doncaster (6 30). Lincoln v Carlisle (7.0), Scarborough v Scunthorpe (7.0); Stockport v Rochdale (6.45); Wigan v Shrewsbury (7.0).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: Brighton v Wimbledon (2.0), C Palace v Luton. Bristol C v Charlton; West Ham v Ipswich (2.0, Dagenham & Redbridge FC). **Second Division:** Bath v Newport AFC, Birmingham v Cheltenham (7 0); Bournemouth v Swansea (2.0); Torquay v Plymouth (7.0).

SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE: Barnet v Welling; Brentford v Colchester Utd (2.0); Cambridge Utd v Reading (2.0); Leyton Orient v Sutton Utd; Woking v Northampton (7.45); Wycombe v Gillingham (7 45).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Ebbw Vale (8.0). Conwy v Porthmadog (7 45).

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier Division: Shamrock Rvrs v Dundalk.

Rugby Union

TOUR MATCH: Newport v New South Wales (7.0).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Oxford Univ v RAF (3 0)

CLUB MATCH: Moseley v Loughborough Students

Basketball

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Newcastle v Manchester (8 0). Leicester v Thames Valley (8.0).

NATIONAL CUP: Quarter-finals: C Palace v Leopards (8.0), Hemel v Birmingham (8.0)

Ice Hockey

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Durham v Milton Keynes (8.0); Humberside v Sheffield (8.0) **Division One:** Bracknell v Chelmsford (8 0)

Hockey

REPRESENTATIVES: Ladykillers v Cambridge Univ (Dukes Meadows, Chiswick); Oxford University v Combined Services (2 30, Sonning)

● The twice Wimbledon singles runner-up Ilie Nastase has signed to play tennis in Scotland for the first time since 1975 in the Legends Mixed Doubles Tournament, a sideshow to the Women's World Doubles Cup in May in Edinburgh.

Given the dignity of his 49 years, his membership of Romania's ruling Social Democracy party and his plans to run for mayor of Bucharest, Nastase was probably joking when he said: "I've asked the organisers to get me a kilt for my opening match — maybe I shall be twice as fast in a kilt as in shorts."

● Australians will be asked to help finance the £295 million 110,000-seater Olympic Stadium for Sydney 2000 through a public share offer, with shareholders having an option on tickets for the Games.

● Patrick Bernardini held off a spirited fightback by the German race favourite Armin Schwarz to retain his Monte Carlo Rally lead in a Ford Escort yesterday.

Sport in brief

Cricket

A fine display of swing and seam bowling gave Yorkshire's Paul Hutchison figures of five for 11 to reduce Zimbabwe to 47 all out on the first day of the second under-19 Test in Harare. England reached 120 for four in reply.

Table Tennis

The British League women's champions BFL Grove face the powerful Dulmen of Germany in Market Drayton tonight in their first-ever home European Cup semifinal, *writes Richard Jago.*

The Shropshire club have failed four times at this stage when playing away and will start as underdogs despite fielding the England team — including last week's Olympic qualifier Lisa Lomas — against a German line-up that will probably be led by the former European Top 12 champion Nicole Struse.

Chess

Michael Adams won his second successive game at the Hoogovens tournament when he scored by clever defence in 42 moves against the Bosnian No. 1, Ivan Sokolov. Adams is now two points behind the leader, Ukraine's world No. 4 Vassily Ivanchuk, *writes Leonard Barden.*

Teamtalk

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Bolton	36	Man. City	02	Sunderland	27
Brentford	24	Man. United	01	Tottenham Hot.	07
Burnley	31	Middlesbrough	23	West Ham	12
Chelsea	08	Millwall	29	Wimbledon	26
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Hudd. Town	32	QPR	25		

Sport

The Guardian

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صكا من الرمل

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Tennis

Rubin the queen of marathons

David Irvine in Melbourne on an American teenager's record-breaking quarter-final win

MAYBE it helped a little to have been through it before. At least Chanda Rubin, who last summer won the longest Wimbledon women's singles ever contested, after a monumental 58 games, had previous experience of the emotions a marathon can generate.

Yet to emerge triumphant from another, and set a similar Australian Open record as she did at Flinders Park yesterday, was a remarkable accomplishment for the 19-year-old American. "But I don't do it deliberately," she said with a laugh.

At 10.45pm, after 3 hours 33 minutes, she hit a forehand volley wide of Arantxa Sanchez Vicario's outstretched racket to wrap up an extraordinary *quarter-final match* 6-4, 2-6, 16-14. It was a shot that took her further in a Grand Slam than ever before; and straight into the path of the favourite, Monica Seles.

"It really should have been much, much sooner," she said, recalling ruefully the first two match points she missed 90 minutes earlier at 5-4 in the third set.

Rubin and Sanchez Vicario, who had lost in the last two singles finals here, had already spent a fair amount of time on court together in the run-up to the match. They are doubles partners — which helped explain the mutual respect surviving an intense and controversial contest.

Frustrated by missing her first chance and annoyed by a call that enabled the Spaniard to survive again at 14-13 ("her volley at 30-40 was clearly out"), Rubin said she had had the feeling the struggle would never end.

"I *felt a little* bad because we knew everyone was waiting for [Andre] Agassi and [Jim] Courier," she said. "And I felt the same way: somebody just finish it! But she wasn't going to give it to me and I wasn't going to give it to her."

In the end she took matters into her own hands. Though the men were on court within six minutes of her leaving, play had to be halted for the night by a thunderstorm with Agassi serving at 4-5.

Theirs was tame fare compared with the hard-hitting duel for the second women's semi-final spot, which at first appeared to be going Rubin's way — she won the first set and led 2-0 in the second — but then swung in Sanchez Vicario's favour as the Spaniard took six games in a row to level at one set all.

Rubin then rallied again. She romped to 4-1, had a point for 5-1 but missed that with a forehand error and allowed the No. 3 seed to level at 5-5 by making two successive backhand errors with the match in her grasp.

Thereafter it was a *battle* royal. Rubin was always the more adventurous, going for her shots at every opportunity, but the Spaniard was as tenacious as ever and twice earned herself the chance to serve it out.

"Towards the end it became much more of a mental battle *for me," said Rubin, a former* Wimbledon junior winner. "I'd had so many opportunities but was unable to capitalise on them."

Rubin hoped to be physically ready for Seles. Sanchez Vicario said: "She is definitely the player who has improved the most and now hits the ball very hard. She can certainly give Monica a match."

Too heavy, too slow, lacks the necessary motivation, needs more matches; all these reasons have been voiced to support an increasingly unconvincing argument that Seles will not claim the title for a fourth time on Saturday.

Though *tested more severely* than in four previous matches, Seles beat Iva Majoli — No. 7 seed and one of her best friends — by 6-1, 6-2. So far she has dropped only 17 games in 10 sets.

She has shown over the past few days that she is capable of raising her level to *whatever is required.* Julie Halard made her run; Seles responded. Majoli tried to wipe her off the court; Seles returned almost every shot with interest.

Rubin has the skill necessary to test Seles. Whether she will have the energy after this epic is another matter.

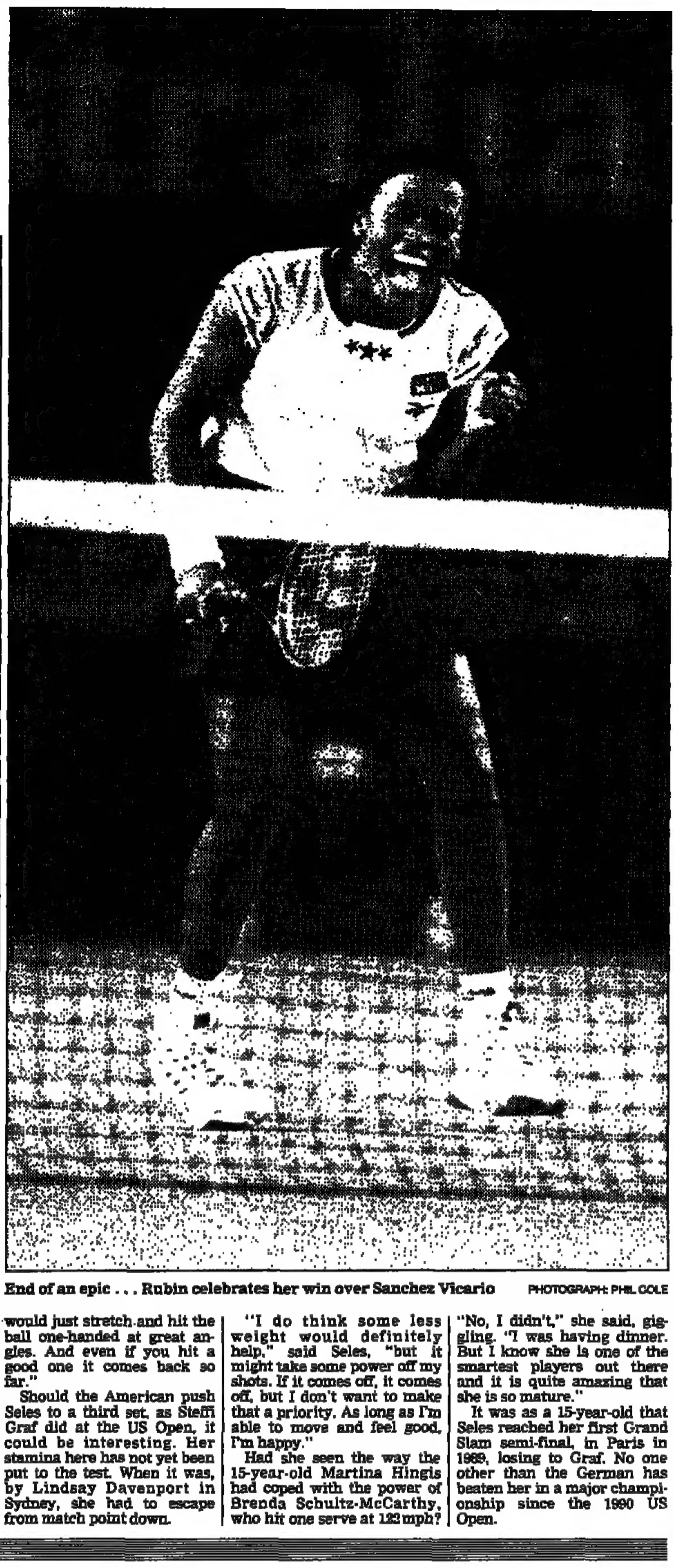
Seles, in contrast, took only 58 minutes to overcome Majoli 6-1, 6-2. Majoli thought the top seed's mobility was one of her weaknesses. But the Croatian added: "If she didn't quite get there she would just stretch and hit the ball one-handed at great angles. And even if you hit a good one it comes back so far."

Should the American push Seles to a third set, as Steffi Graf did at the US Open, it could be interesting. Her stamina here has not yet been put to the test. When it was, by Lindsay Davenport in Sydney, she had to escape from match point down.

"I do think some less weight would definitely help," said Seles, "but it might take some power off my shots. If it comes off, it comes off, but I don't want to make that a priority. As long as I'm able to move and feel good, I'm happy."

Had she seen the way the 15-year-old Martina Hingis had coped with the power of Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, who hit one serve at 122mph? "No, I didn't," she said, giggling. "I was having dinner. But I know she is one of the smartest players out there and it is quite amazing that she is so mature."

It was as a 15-year-old that Seles reached her first Grand Slam semi-final, in Paris in 1989, losing to Graf. No one other than the German has beaten her in a major championship since the 1990 US Open.



End of an epic . . . Rubin celebrates her win over Sanchez Vicario PHOTOGRAPH: PHIL COLE

Chang charges into the last four

MICHAEL CHANG, generally considered the most fleet-footed player in the men's game, quick-stepped his way into the semi-final of the Australian Open yesterday, *writes David Irvine.*

He demolished Mikael Tillstrom of Sweden 6-0, 6-2, 6-4 in only 76 minutes. So far the American has spent only 8½ hours on court, dropping his serve four times in all and making few errors. No one else has progressed so easily, although he has yet to meet anyone ranked higher than 43 in the world.

He had been expecting to play the hard-serving Dutchman Richard Krajicek *in the fourth round* and the Austrian Thomas Muster in the quarters. Instead he played a French qualifier, Jean-Philippe Fleurian, and the 105th-ranked Tillstrom, who had a nightmare of a match, to cruise into the last four.

Chang's earnings approach $12 million (£8 million) but his inability to build on the one Grand Slam title he gained as a 17-year-old in Paris seven years ago suggests he has been left behind by the power players.

He does not accept this. "When I first came on the tour I was a patient player, winning my points on the other guy's errors or by hitting a passing shot or a lob. It's nice not to have to depend on that now."

Indeed Chang has adapted remarkably well. By using a longer-handled racket he has beefed up his serve to the level of an Agassi — 33 aces so far — and developed a more than useful net game.

He is not intimidated by the bigger men — "after all, I've been playing them all my life" — and believes that whereas Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi have probably reached their peak, his best *time is still to come.*

● James Trotman's 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 second-round defeat by Australia's Jed Gould ended British interest in the boys' singles, but the 16-year-old Ipswich player and Worthing's 18-year-old Martin Lee beat an Australian pair in the opening round of the boys' doubles. Second seeds here, Trotman and Lee won the boys' doubles at Wimbledon last year. Yesterday they beat Darin Currall and Akram Zaman 6-2, 5-7, 7-5.

Rugby Union

French set to ban Dourthe for 'poke' at Clarke

Robert Armstrong

THE France coach Jean-Claude Skrela has promised that Richard Dourthe, who has now admitted he stamped on Ben Clarke's head on Saturday, will be punished by the French Rugby Federation at a disciplinary meeting in Paris today. The 21-year-old Dax centre said he gave Clarke a "poke" with his boot after the England No. 8 got trapped at the bottom of a ruck.

"I condemn brutality and Dourthe will be sanctioned," said Skrela, after the centre's act of foul play was exposed by a video replay. "He had been warned to keep his temper under control."

The team manager Jo Maso said he expected at least a two-match international ban to be imposed on Dourthe, who is a trainee physiotherapist. *It would rule him out of* the games in Murrayfield and against Ireland in Paris.

Clarke had to go off and have nine stitches in a head wound but insisted he did not want Dourthe to be cited formally; instead the RFU secretary Tony Hallett asked the French to deal with it.

Dourthe had no option but to come clean after his offence was picked up clearly by television and shown in both France and England, with the sports daily L'Equipe running a sequence of BBC pictures on Tuesday morning under the banner headline *Dourthe a craqué* (Dourthe cracked).

"I have no excuses," he said. "I was stupid, really stupid. The English were pressing very hard then and I had a lot of adrenalin going. The ball wasn't released when Clarke went to ground in a ruck and I just gave him a poke. I know I shouldn't have done it."

Dourthe suggested that a British media campaign against him before the game had precipitated his downfall. "It's a dream to be in the French team but now this dream has been destroyed to some extent," he said.

Meanwhile, Italy have made a formal application, their second in five years, for entry to a putative Six Nations Championship. Romania and Canada are expected to follow suit but whoever gains entry will probably have to wait *until 1998* and the competition's new TV contract.

The move came after the Italian Olympic Committee granted a request from the Italian Rugby Union to have a new 32,000 all-seat stadium in Rome, the Stadio Flaminio, designated chiefly for rugby.

● *Harlequins' former* England hooker Brian Moore said yesterday that he had retired from Courage league action but might return to play "some junior rugby" next season.

Wales have no room for Davies

David Plummer

JONATHAN DAVIES's international return will come later rather than sooner after he was yesterday left out of Wales's squad of 24 players to prepare for the Five Nations Championship.

The coach Kevin Bowring has kept faith with the Bristol outside-half Arwel Thomas, who made a promising debut against Italy last week; and the first choice in the position, Neil Jenkins, is recalled even though he has a shoulder injury and will have to prove his fitness when Pontypridd play New South Wales on Saturday.

Bowring has named 20 of the 21 who were on duty against Italy. David Evans has made way for Jenkins, and the centres Nigel Davies and Gareth Thomas are back in contention after recovering from injuries. The inclusion of Newport's Mike Voyle gives Bowring an extra option in the second and back rows.

Wales's championship campaign opens at Twickenham next week. The squad will spend the coming weekend in Tenby, after which Bowring and his assistant Allan Lewis will finalise the team.

The Welsh Rugby Union has sanctioned payments for 32 squad members to give Bowring latitude as the season progresses. "We will be looking to add to the squad, and a number of players, including Jonathan Davies, are in our thoughts," he said.

"At this stage he has not played enough meaningful rugby and very little at outside-half. He still needs time to adapt to the game."

Davies would have been in line to play for Wales in the A international against France next week but, in the time-honoured fashion of the fixture, it has been cancelled. He now faces a diet of friendlies before Cardiff's Swalec Cup tie at Swansea on February 24, by which time half Wales's season will be over.

Bowring, however, is keen to concentrate on the team rather than individuals as he prepares for a match he believes Wales have a chance of winning. "England have weaknesses we can look to exploit," he said. "They may decide to play a more expansive game at home than they did in Paris, but we must build on our first 60 minutes against Italy."

WALES SQUAD: Backs: J Thomas, I Evans, W Proctor (all Llanelli), S Hill (Cardiff), G Thomas (Bridgend), L Davies (Neath), M Wintle, N Davies (both Llanelli), A Thomas (Bristol), N Jenkins (Pontypridd), A Moore (Cardiff), R Howley (Bridgend). **Forwards:** J Humphreys (Cardiff, capt), G Jenkins (Swansea), A Lewis (Cardiff), J Davies (Neath), L Mustoe (Cardiff), G Llewellyn (Neath), D Jones (Cardiff), M Voyle (Newport), E Lewis (Cardiff), G Jones (Llanelli), H Taylor (Cardiff), S Williams (Neath).

Rugby League

Overseas quota will rise to five

Paul Fitzpatrick

CLUBS are likely to be allowed to sign five overseas players for the Super League season which starts in March. The current maximum is three.

Players from such "development" areas as Fiji, Tonga and the Cook Islands will in future be classed as overseas. Players from these nations are currently exempt from the register.

Clubs who opt for the maximum quota will have to pay £15,000 into a development fund. The new *conditions* seem sure to be carried by a Rugby League council meeting next month.

Meanwhile the perennial strugglers Highfield have been told that they must improve their performance on the field or face losing their place in the Second Division.

Sorry Highfield have won two of their last 80 games. Last Sunday they were thrashed 82-0 by Hunslet, and they were removed from the Challenge Cup by the amateur side Thatto Heath. The performances of Chorley and Doncaster will also be monitored.

An application has been received from Mike Nicholas, the Wales manager, to enter a Welsh side — possibly based at Aberavon — into the Second Division in time for the new season. Northampton Knights have also applied for membership.

Phil Larder, with Phil Lowe as his manager, was confirmed as coach for Great Britain's tour to Australasia next September and October. Larder's assistant will be Clive Griffiths, the Wales coach.

That should be a consolation to Griffiths, who was "gutted" to learn at the weekend that he had been overlooked for the Warrington coaching vacancy in favour of the Australian John Dorahy.

St Helens have confirmed that the Australian Shaun McRae, an assistant coach at Canberra Raiders, will be their coach in succession to Eric Hughes, who was sacked last week.

A combined Fiji, Tonga, Cook Islands and Western Samoa side — Oceana — will tour England in October. Their opponents will be Salford, Huddersfield and Hull, with Cumbria, England A, Ireland and Wales providing the representative opposition.

Boxing

Hamed held in airport row

NASEEM HAMED, the WBO featherweight champion, was cautioned by police yesterday after an altercation with a check-in girl at Manchester airport. Police were called after the 21-year-old boxer was said to have threatened the girl with the words: "I'll come back and sort you out with a shotgun."

His flight ticket and boarding card were confiscated while police "advised him about his behaviour".

The row started when the Sheffield fighter checked in for the 6.30am shuttle from Manchester to Heathrow en route to Cannes. British Airways said he "refused to answer routine security questions about items of hand baggage and then threatened the check-in girl, Helen Russell. He later apologised. He said the remark about a shotgun was made in jest, but she took it very seriously. We eventually allowed him to travel."

Golf

Webster is one to watch

David Davies on a European Tour chance for a talented young man from Atherstone who stole the limelight from Gordon Sherry

THIS year's PGA European Tour starts in Singapore and continues by way of Perth, Western Australia to three tournaments in South Africa, one in Northern Africa, one off the coast of Africa and another in the Middle East before it begins to settle down and more properly reflect its title with events in Spain, Italy and France.

The tour is welcome wherever it goes and such an itinerary does at least find work for the aptly called journeymen of European golf. But it is unlikely that, with the exception of the Johnnie Walker Classic in Singapore, many of Europe's best players will be competing.

It is an awfully arduous and expensive way to start the year, and with travelling demands increasing throughout the year, and costs soaring, many players will wait for the tour to swim back into vision before they clear out the closet and dig out their clubs.

That being the case, who are the "ones to watch" from the start? Steve Webster, from Atherstone, Warwickshire, leads the new faces — to the surprise of many, since for two glorious summer weeks last year Scotland switched to triumphant tartan mode when Gordon Sherry dominated the world's golfing headlines.

First the 6ft 8in Sherry finished fourth in the Scottish Open at Carnoustie — the best any amateur had achieved in recent memory. Then, because he had won the Amateur Championship earlier in the year, he was able to enter the Open the following week at St Andrews.

The large Sherry was immediately responsible for yet more toasts as he holed in one and then earned the ungrudging admiration of three of his practice-round partners, none other than Tom Watson, Greg Norman and Jack Nicklaus. It was a remarkable 14 days.

But at the end of them there was the presentation ceremony for the Open, which always begins with the award of the Silver Medal to the leading amateur. When the winner was announced the name was not that of Sherry but of Webster, head and shoulders shorter than the Scot and about half his weight.

Webster marched up for the medal to applause that was sincere but contained a hint of mystification. Who was this slightly built youth who had spoiled the script?

People could be forgiven for asking, for although Webster was known as a good player he was not considered good enough to be selected for the Walker Cup later in the year. That contest saw Sherry, effectively made playing captain, dominate proceedings with his effervescent enthusiasm.

But Webster was undoubtedly worth a place in the team and proved the point with some emphasis when, at the PGA European Tour qualifying school in Spain in November, he produced a 65 in the second round of six and won the event.

Webster was eight shots ahead of the next best Walker Cup man, Stephen Gallacher, nephew of Bernard, the Ryder Cup captain. He was 10 better than *Padraig Harrington* and 12 better than David Howell, the other Walker Cup players to get their cards. Sherry did not compete, preferring to take up his place in the US Masters that came with the winning of the Amateur.

So Webster tackles the European Tour and, given *that he excels in stroke-play,* the format facing him for the rest of his career, he is undoubtedly a man to watch in the new season. He almost certainly will not win and his targets will be to become accustomed to the life, to learn the courses and to retain his card.

Of course it is by no means automatic that the player who tops the qualifiers is going to be the best of that bunch. *Sandy Lyle was* and so too Jose-Maria Olazabal, but the pressure of that occasion can mean that some players simply cannot produce their best golf. That may be the explanation for the relatively poor performance of Howell, who had a good Walker Cup and is highly rated by his former England captain Peter McEvoy.

For Webster and Howell the initial challenge will be survival. Others, who have achieved that, will want to take their games to new levels and win when they get there.

The New Zealander Michael Campbell will be beginning to think about majors, even though he has yet to become a regular winner as a professional. Last year he finished fifth in the Volvo Order of Merit, winning £401,000.

He also, of course, challenged for the Open before a poor last round during which he was plagued with the "what ifs". He admitted later in the season that he had begun to think about the money an Open Championship victory would bring before the final round had begun, let alone finished, and that is precisely the kind of mistake to which 26-year-olds are prone.

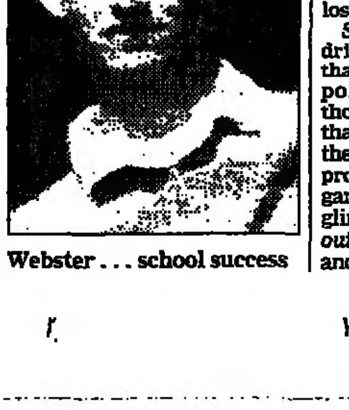
But he will probably not make the mistake again and *he has a game which should* bring him regular chances to win at every level. He has the gift, enjoyed too by Ernie Els, of being able to hit the ball a very long way without apparent effort, he has classic outlines to his swing, and he has, so far at any rate, a ready smile.

Stuart Cage will be looking to win his first PGA European Tour event. He had a 30-foot putt on the final green at the Murphy's Irish Open last year to do just that, and left it short; then he lost the play-off. But this will be only his second full year on the tour and he has both a swing and a work ethic that should bring success.

Last year he played in 30 events, and only one European player played in more in Europe — which brings us to the fifth and final "one to watch" this year.

Jarmo Sandelin played 31 events, won £174,000 and was Tour Rookie of the Year. Sandelin is in contrast to, say, Campbell and arguably more fun to watch in that he tries to welly everything out of sight, and usually succeeds. Sometimes it is because the ball is deep in the trees, of course, but more often it is so far down the fairway that even experienced spotters lose sight of it.

Sandelin uses a 52-inch driver, almost a foot longer than standard, and, disappointingly, hides behind those fashionable sunglasses that wrap themselves round the eyes. Tall and athletic, he probably typifies the way the game is going. So, for a glimpse into the future, seek *out the Swede with the shades* and stand well back.



Webster . . . school success

Squash

Australian 'bad boy' hit by new two-year ban

Richard Jago

ANTHONY HILL, the world No. 8 from Australia, was yesterday banned by the World Squash Federation from representing his country in team events until 1998.

Earlier this month Hill was suspended for three months by the Professional Squash Association and fined £1,400 for "unsportsmanlike conduct" when playing Jansher Khan at the World Open last October in Cyprus.

The 28-year-old's latest ban follows incidents in a match against Mir Zaman Gul of Pakistan at the world team championships in Cairo in November. Hill was charged with physically and verbally abusing his opponent, verbally abusing the referee and showing dissent against decisions, throwing his racket and bringing the game into disrepute.

He has been stopped by the WSF from competing in any of its events up to and including the world team championships in the autumn of 1997, which means he will miss the inaugural World Cup in Kuala Lumpur this year.

Hill's temperament contributed to his defeat in the match against Gul, which cost Australia success in the semi-finals. England won the world team title for the first time by beating Pakistan in the final.

Ice Hockey

BIHA springs £7,500 levy on top clubs

Vic Batchelder

BRITISH League clubs have been shaken by a demand from the British Ice Hockey Association for up to £7,500 to be paid by next Wednesday.

The BIHA chief executive David Frame has circulated a letter requiring £7,500 from each of the 10 Premier Division clubs and £5,000 from the 14 sides in Division One.

At least two Division One teams are understood to have said they will shut down rather than meet a demand born of the BIHA's inability to find a sponsor for the British League.

The BIHA claims that a clause in its bylaws entitles it to demand up to £11,000 a season from each British League club. It also claims that the demand follows a recommendation by the Cardiff club, "agreed in principle by a majority of Premier clubs". In return, restrictions on advertising logos on shirts, shorts and ice surfaces will be relaxed.

In the two years since Frame was appointed, the BIHA has opened a second office and doubled its salaried staff. One of the new appointments fills the post of financial controller.

● Newcastle Warriors have released their Great Britain international David Longstaff, a former Young British Player of the Year, after signing Niklas Gulleksson and *Lars Thunell from the Swed*ish First Division side Vasby.

Wednesday January 24 1996

FA Cup replay

Oldham 2, Barnsley 1

Latics enjoy cold comfort

Cynthia Bateman

Sport in brief

Cricket

Table Tennis

Chess

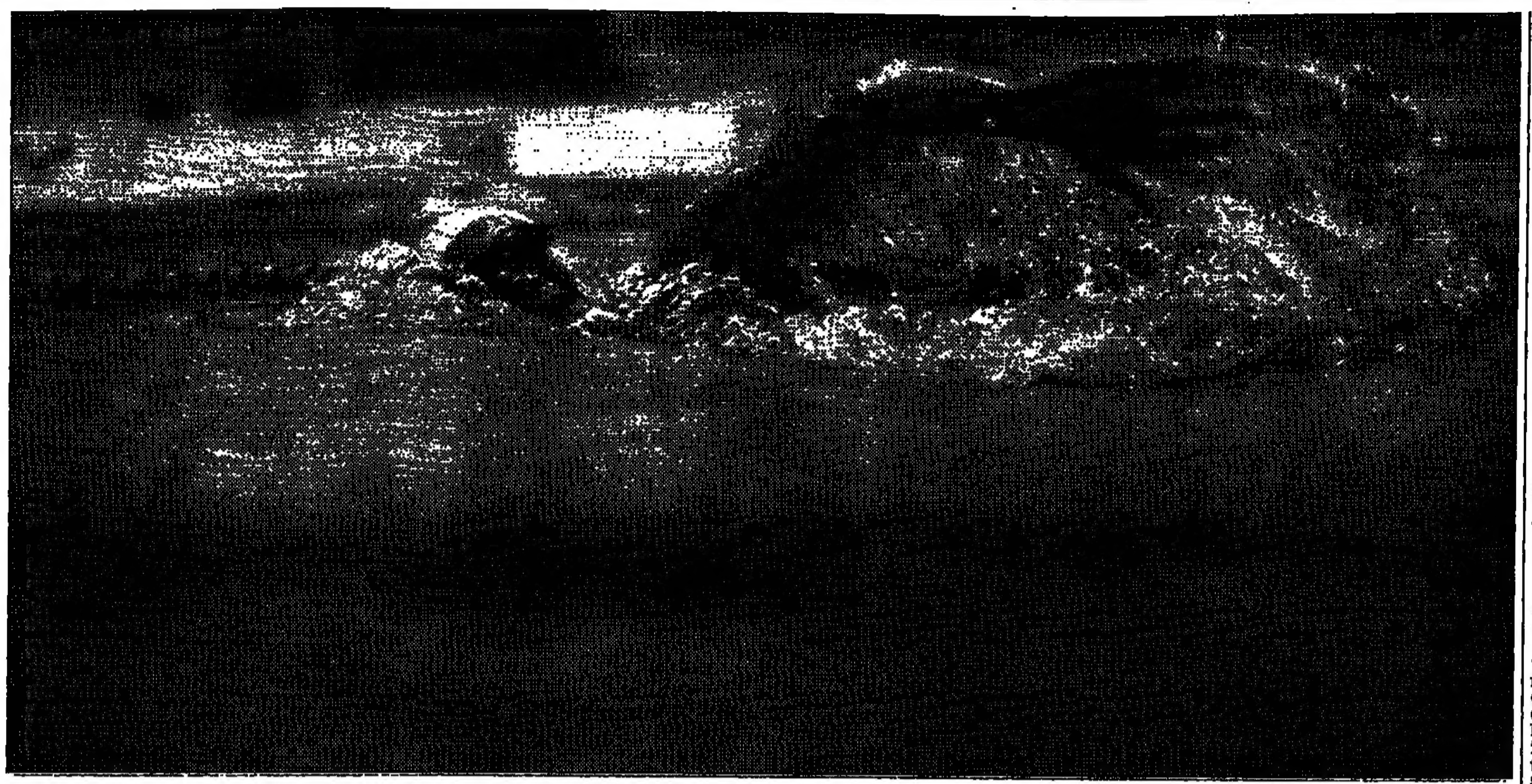
Maguire doubtful for Cheltenham, page 13

Dalglish drops from Irish reckoning, page 14

Rubin wins another marathon, page 15

French vow to punish Dourthe, page 15

*Sports*Guardian



Strength in depth . . . Hiroki Takahashi (Loughborough University) warms up in Ponds Forge pool, Sheffield before yesterday's World Cup meet in which Jani Sievinen equalled his world-record 53.78sec for the 100m medley, having cut over a second off his own world 400m medley mark in his home country on Saturday PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE

Sport on the verge of the Third Eye era

Rugby league is to leave crucial decisions to the TV camera; will soccer follow?

John Duncan, Martin Thorpe and Paul Fitzpatrick

RUGBY league became the first British contact sport to introduce the "spy in the stands" yesterday with the announcement that for all televised matches an official in a monitor booth will have the final say on controversial incidents.

Soccer may be the next. It is understood that there are moves within the Football Association to create a working party to look into the whole question of using technology to help decide issues during games. The group could be in place by the summer.

There is a growing feeling at Lancaster Gate that this area must soon be addressed. Issues for consideration would include a radio link from referees to colleagues with television facilities in the stands, and a standardised form of time-keeping to end disputes about the amount of injury time played.

However, a working party would enter a minefield of tough decisions. Who would be allowed to call for a replay? What issues would be referred for a decision? How could the flow of the game be maintained? Would it undermine referees? How long would the change extend a normal game beyond 90 minutes?

David Davies, the FA's director of communications, would not comment last night on the working party proposal. "These matters are under continuing consideration here and we don't discount anything in the future," he said.

The Rugby Football League, though, was enthusiastic yesterday about the value of a TV official. Super League, which starts in March, will use slow-motion replays to decide on controversial incidents, particularly the validity of tries.

In matches televised by Sky, referees will be able to call for assistance over touchdowns just as cricket umpires can call for a ruling on run-outs.

The clock will be stopped while the ruling is awaited but Greg McCallum, the Rugby League's controller of referees, is confident that a decision will be reached within 30 to 45 seconds. Spectators will be able to judge some of these incidents for themselves, for it is intended that giant TV screens, complete with explanatory graphics, will be used at Sky matches.

"Other sports have benefited from this kind of facility and rugby league should take advantage of all the technological advances available," said the League's chief executive Maurice Lindsay.

The move marks the latest TV encroachment into sport. In Scottish soccer, video evidence will next season be used retrospectively for disciplinary purposes. In rugby union the France centre Richard Dourthe faces a two-match ban after admitting, after TV evidence, to kicking England's Ben Clarke.

Racing has used photo-finishes since 1947 and has filmed races for the benefit of race stewards since 1960 at Newmarket, four cameras now being used to offer officials every angle on controversial incidents.

It is also common now for leading English soccer referees to study match videos before submitting their reports to the FA. Last week Gerald Ashby, having watched televised footage, voluntarily reversed the booking of Newcastle's David Ginola for diving at Arsenal. Last night, however, Ashby rejected the use of TV during a game, arguing that it would cause more problems than it solved.

"Where would it start and where would it end?" he asked. "It is time people recognised that everyone, including referees, makes mistakes, but the game is all about talking-points and opinions."

Tim Crabbe, chairman of the Football Supporters' Association, agreed. "I know we all shout at referees, but the human element is all part of the game."

The third eye was tried in American football in 1966, when an instant-replay official was introduced and both teams were allowed a limited number of appeals to the official. But the replay booth was abandoned in 1991. "It was mainly because of the time it took," an NFL spokesman said last night, "but also because it questioned the referee's integrity. It implied that his decisions weren't good enough, begging the question of what he was doing on the field."

Redknapp rueful over Dicks tackle

Martin Thorpe

THE case for referees to be given immediate access to video replays during games was highlighted yesterday by the fall-out from Manchester United's game at West Ham on Monday night.

Stephen Lodge sent off United's Nicky Butt for a tackle on Julian Dicks — a decision many onlookers felt was harsh — but missed a heavy challenge made seconds earlier by Dicks on Andy Cole.

After seeing a replay of Butt's tackle, United have sent a video to the FA requesting that it asks Lodge if he will change his mind. "We haven't yet seen the video of the other bookings, so that may follow later," added United's spokesman Ken Ramsden.

Had a third referee been in the stand, Dicks's challenge might have been picked up. But even here initial appearances were deceptive. Immediately after the game West Ham's manager Harry Redknapp hit out at criticism of the tackle made on Sky TV by saying: "He didn't go over the ball and didn't try to break anyone's leg."

However, after reviewing the incident at Sky's request yesterday Redknapp admitted: "It wasn't a good tackle.

"At the time all I saw was a perfectly good challenge. But after watching the whole incident for the first time on video I saw he overran the ball and threw himself in a two-foot challenge. It would be impossible for me to sit here and say otherwise."

Dicks is likely to escape FA punishment as the referee missed the incident. The FA will act only if it receives a complaint, and United say they will not be making one.

The secrets of selection, by Harriet

Vincent Hanna

LET us ponder the nature of management and the power of prayer. We'll try to slip in a dig about selection. Fashionable as always, us.

The prayer business arose in a tearful phone call from my friend Father Damien in Cork. He railed about the latest inept performance by the Irish rugby team, adding that in the final 10 minutes, when they were camped near the Scottish line, he had fallen to his knees "saying a lot of Hail Marys".

"Clearly God did not hear you," I said. "On the contrary," snapped Damien. "I was praying for Scotland, for it would have been a holy scandal if Ireland had won."

It struck me that whereas English cricket endures good selection and bad management, with Irish rugby it is the other way round. When the wind and rain howl down Lansdowne Road you're well advised to play forwards with a low centre of gravity — and not send out five giraffes.

Apropos of nothing, did you know that the Hail Mary has a special place in sport? In American football it is a term of art, and treated with due reverence. I thought it originated at Notre Dame but it comes from Texas.

In the 1975 NFL Play-offs, the Minnesota Vikings led the Dallas Cowboys 14–10 with 34 seconds to go. Dallas were stuck on the halfway line and their quarterback Roger Staubach, seeing Drew Pearson sprinting into the end zone, threw a 50-yard pass in his direction. "I joined my hands and said a Hail Mary," said Staubach. Pearson caught the ball and began a legend.

In America any pass or shot, or indeed any action in sport or life which involves a mighty but foolhardy effort, usually at the last second, is now called a "Hail Mary".

IN THAT spirit I notice that, in the contest to succeed Jack Charlton as manager of the Republic of Ireland, George Best has thrown his hat into the ring, presumably along with several other pieces of clothing. George was the finest player I have ever seen, but in this venture he needs all the prayers he can get.

I had the misfortune once to see his cabaret act and heard him make remarks that made Ray Illingworth look like a community relations officer. I hope George tries one of his quips on Paul McGrath.

Great managers have always combined judgment with self-belief. They possess the cunning of a Talleyrand and the daring of a Patton. Jock Stein did, and he was a greater man than either.

One of the sorriest spectacles I have seen in years was at the presentation at the end of the one-day series in Port Elizabeth. Mike Atherton bravely stood, his head hanging and his feet shuffling, as the South Africans celebrated their victory and their nation.

Like England they had been well prepared and led. Unlike England they had been excellently motivated and managed. They even understand the power of prayer. The "Hail Nelson" always works for them.

England have good players, a fine captain, and an unrivalled tradition. But when it matters we do not perform. In any other endeavour that would mean a change of management.

"BEING a manager is simple," said the baseball legend Casey Stengel. "All you have to do is keep the five players who hate your guts away from the five who are undecided."

Ray Illingworth operates within a system that denies players the basic right to defend themselves. It makes his criticism of Devon Malcolm all the more disgraceful. Try to imagine any circumstances in which Alex Ferguson would publicly deride Andy Cole as a "footballing nonentity" or a "striker with no brain". Whatever he may say in private.

Illingworth's management skills have moved both the self-effacing Professional Cricketers' Association and the anything-but Dermot Reeve. David Graveney has asked for a meeting after the World Cup to talk about the gagging clause in his members' contracts.

I have two modest suggestions of my own. In the World Cup the England team might try praying aloud in a crisis. Surely the "Hail Geoffrey" or "Ave Beefy" would strike awe into opponents' hearts. It might work. Nothing else has.

In the longer term the TCCB needs to appoint someone with charisma who can bring principle and nerve to the whole business of selection.

Someone, say, like Harriet Harman.

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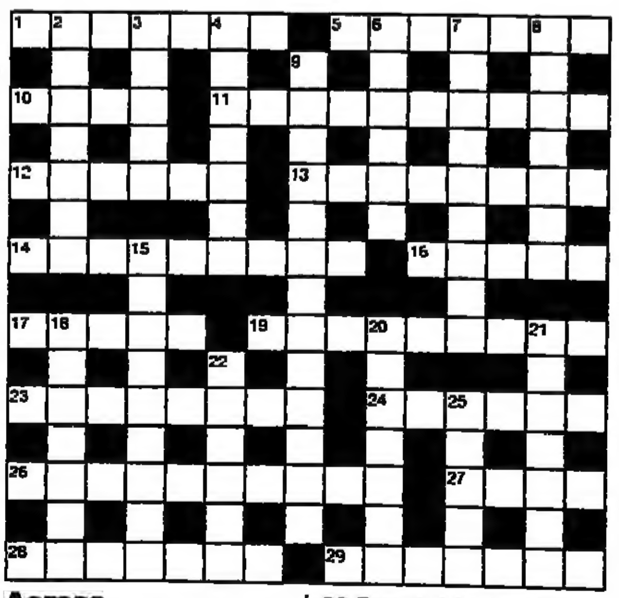
Anna is the only child in history to be subjected to a draconian Mary Bell order who is not a ward of court. The judges accepted that the mother's devotion to her daughter has been exemplary and magnificent. Nevertheless, they insisted that neither she nor Anna had any rights.

Francis Wheen

G2 page 5

Guardian Crossword No 20,557

Set by Fawley



Across

1 Forgetting to start diet, meat's cooked for about four (7)
5 Something turned out for the tube (7)
10 Places to drive from the river? (4)
11 In fantasy, earthman seizes ship in trouble (10)
12 Skill in writing story books (6)
13 Abuse regiment for invading island before time (8)
14 Part-timer before board is open to suggestion (9)
16 17 in Somerset town? That's not on! (5)
17 Rib sounds 10 (5)
19 Novice caught by cunning test to identify bird (9)
23 Go and finally admit reject (4,4)
24 Rogue travel resorts? (6)
26 Damn train's late — it's frustrating (10)
27 Type of animal's not the point, exactly (2,1,1)
28 I'll bring you a cup, duck, before day's out (3,4)
29 See actress beginning to captivate the French (7)

Down

2 Leave scribbled note offering lift (7)
3 Discernment shown by head of staff in gallery (5)
4 Two graduates brought round headgear for religious leader (7)
6 Commit a theft, making very little noise (6)
7 Give limit to time for eating clotted cream (9)
8 Continued on own Scotch bottle (7)
9 Let's run some programmes about America being shaky (13)
15 Following delivery of letters to part of Africa (9)
18 Bring up two similar points about old money (7)
20 Youngster always allowed to come round (7)
21 Excessively consumed with rigged vote about age (7)
22 Rang and made a statement to reporters (6)
25 It may hold up gunship during revolution (5)

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,556

Solution tomorrow

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